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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

PRC's Jiang Zemin Continues Five-Day Visit 1
Speaks Out Against Hegemony *[KYODO]* 1
Expresses Hope for Cooperation *[Tokyo TV]* 1
Meets With Emperor Akihito 7 Apr *[KYODO]* 2
Extends Invitation to Emperor *[KYODO]* 2
Promises No 'Tricky Issues' *[KYODO]* 2
Men Arrested for Jeering at Jiang *[Tokyo TV]* 3
Jiang Responds to 'Harassment' *[KYODO]* 3
LDP Leaders on Jiang Criticism of SDF Dispatch *[KYODO]* 3
Caution Urged Regarding Emperor's China Trip *[KYODO]* 4
Chinese Illegals Promised Payment to 'Syndicate' *[KYODO]* 4
Tokyo, U.S. Fail To Settle SII Differences *[KYODO]* 4
Bill Countering U.S. Antitrust Policy Denied *[KYODO]* 5
MITI Asks Firms To Buy More Foreign Chips *[KYODO]* 5
MITI Urges Foreign Paper Product Purchases *[KYODO]* 5
Okinawa Landowners Reluctant To Renew Leases *[OKINAWA TIMES 5 Apr]* 6
G-7 'Likely' To Propose Dividing Monopolies *[KYODO]* 6
Finance Minister on Economic Assistance to CIS *[KYODO]* 7
Support for Russian Membership in IMF Signaled *[KYODO]* 7
Kanemaru Doubtful About DPRK Inspections *[KYODO]* 7
Miyazawa Says No Reconsideration of Aid to Peru *[KYODO]* 8
Spokesman Says Cutoff of Aid to Peru Possible *[KYODO]* 8
Miyazawa, Australia's Evans on Uruguay Round *[KYODO]* 8
Australia's Dawkins Stresses Regional Cooperation *[KYODO]* 9
Firms Promote Joint Clothing Venture in SRV *[KYODO]* 9
Watanabe on Possibility of Diet Double Election *[KYODO]* 10
60 Seats Said Make-or-Break Line for Miyazawa *[KYODO]* 10
Nikkeiren Meeting Names Four Vice Presidents *[KYODO]* 11
LDP To Study Measures To Boost Stock Market *[KYODO]* 11
Minivehicle Sales Said To Drop 8% in Fiscal 1991 *[KYODO]* 11
Tokyo Launches Major Study of Environment Tax *[KYODO]* 11
SCC Resumes Satellite Telecommunication Service *[KYODO]* 12

North Korea

Kim Il-song Lauded as 'Lodestar' of Nation *[KCNA]* 12

South Korea

DPRK Official: Kim Chong-il Rise Not Imminent *[YONHAP]* 13
Draft Nuclear Inspection Regulations Compared *[CHUNGANG ILBO 5 Apr]* 13
Agriculture Minister Rejects Opening Rice Market *[SEOUL SINMUN 1 Apr]* 15
Tariffs Imposed on 20 Farm, Industrial Imports *[YONHAP]* 16
Six More Businesses To Open to Foreign Investors *[YONHAP]* 16
Labor Shortage Grows at Small Companies *[THE KOREA TIMES 4 Apr]* 16
Government Blamed for Illegal Worker Problem *[THE KOREA TIMES 4 Apr]* 17
No Urges 'Stern Punishment' for Foreign Criminals *[YONHAP]* 18

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Khin Nyunt Receives UN Special Envoy in Rangoon *[Rangoon Radio]* 19
Bilateral Solution to Border Issue Promised *[Rangoon Radio]* 19
20,000 Muslims Gather on Thai Border *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 7 Apr]* 19

Cambodia

Sihanouk, SNC Delegation Leave for Beijing *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 19
'Consensus' Seen Between Hardliners, Reformers *[AFP]* 20
Heng Samrin Resists National Assembly Decision *[AFP]* 20
Thai Premier Choice 'Sure To Sour' Relations *[AFP]* 21
KR Soldier Claims Firing at UN Helicopter *[SPK]* 21
SNC-UNTAC Meeting Views Latest Developments 22
Khieu Samphan Gives Address *[Radio VGNUFC]* 22
Akashi Briefs on UN Operations *[SPK]* 23
Khieu Samphan Asked To Open KR Areas *[AFP]* 23
'Great Joy' Expressed Over Akashi Statement *[Radio VGNUFC]* 24
Foreign Minister on KR Stance on UN Troops *[AFP]* 24
UN Military Official Cited on Troop Deployment *[Radio VOK]* 25
Radio Urges Solving 'War of Aggression' 25
Control of SRV Pullout Urged *[Radio VGNUFC]* 25
100 Percent Troop Dissolution Urged *[Radio VGNUFC]* 25
Villages in Kompong Thom Shelled 4 Apr *[Radio VGNUFC]* 26
Multiple Rockets Brought to Kompong Thom *[Radio VGNUFC]* 26
360 New Recruits Sent To Kompong Thom *[Radio VGNUFC]* 26
UN Official Cited on Cease-Fire in Kompong Thom *[SPK]* 27
Sihanouk Greets Hun Sen's 40th Birthday *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27
Hun Sen Responds *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 27

Indonesia

Austria Denies Reports of Aid Suspension *[ANTARA]* 28
Alatas: Austria To Continue Aid *[ANTARA]* 28
Envoy Reaffirms Continuation of Aid *[ANTARA]* 28
Policemen Headed for Cambodia Get Sendoff *[ANTARA]* 29
Australian Tourist Deported From E. Timor *[THE JAKARTA POST 25 Mar]* 29
Family Planning Programs To Continue *[ANTARA]* 29
House Speaker Criticizes Business Monopoly Rights *[THE JAKARTA POST 21 Mar]* 30
Military Chief Hopes for 'More Tranquil' Society *[Jakarta Radio]* 30

Philippines

Ramos Spells Out Foreign Policy Platform *[MALAYA 7 Apr]* 30
Communists Asked To Allow Free Campaigning *[BUSINESS WORLD 7 Apr]* 31
Evacuation of Workers in Libya Said Not Necessary *[BUSINESS WORLD 7 Apr]* 32

Thailand

Royal Command Appoints Suchinda Prime Minister *[Bangkok TV]* 32
Suchinda on Accepting Premiership *[Bangkok TV]* 33
Phalang Tham Leader Criticizes Military Coalition *[BANGKOK POST 7 Apr]* 33
Chawalit Reports on Meeting With Suchinda *[Bangkok TV]* 34
Military To Retain Key Ministries *[THE NATION 7 Apr]* 34
Military, Party Leaders on Forming Government *[BANGKOK POST 3 Apr]* 36
Problems With Premier Selection Process Viewed *[BANGKOK POST 5 Apr]* 37
Military Leaders Downplay Possible U.S. Aid Cut *[BANGKOK POST 4 Apr]* 38
Trade Officials Dispute U.S. Trade Report *[THE NATION 3 Apr]* 38
More Services To Open to Foreign Operators *[THE NATION 6 Apr]* 38

Troops May Retaliate Against Burmese Intruders *[Bangkok TV]* 39
Shells From Burma Hit Thai Village *[BANGKOK POST 29 Mar]* 39
Government To Protest Burmese Border Incursion *[THE NATION 3 Apr]* 40
Rice Exporters Plan Shipments to Japan *[THE NATION 4 Apr]* 40
Interior Minister Stresses National Sovereignty *[Bangkok Radio]* 41

Vietnam

Paper: U.S. Told Hanoi To Abandon Socialism *[AFP]* 41
Hanoi Reports USAID Delegation Visit *[VNA]* 41
Chinese Party Delegation Visits *[VNA]* 42
Chinese Aircraft Conduct Test Flights to Hanoi *[Hanoi International]* 42
Press, Publishing Delegation Visits China *[VNA]* 42
Protocol With Czechoslovakia on Humanitarian Aid *[Hanoi Radio]* 42
New Zealand Provides More Development Aid *[Hanoi Radio]* 42
Nguyen Manh Cam Interviewed on Ties With India *[Hanoi International]* 42
Do Muoi Addresses Foreign Relations Congress *[Hanoi TV]* 43
National Assembly Deputies Vote on Constitution *[Hanoi Radio]* 44
Vo Van Kiet Chairs Hanoi City Plan Meeting *[Hanoi Radio]* 44
Bui Thien Ngo Attends Security Congress *[Hanoi TV]* 44
Nong Duc Manh Visits Lang Son Province *[Hanoi Radio]* 44

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Iranian Embassy Attackers Fear Reprisals in Iran *[Melbourne International]* 45
Officials Confirm Reopening of Aid To Vietnam *[AFP]* 45
Embassy Denies Banning Thai Minister-Designate *[AFP]* 45

Japan

PRC's Jiang Zemin Continues Five-Day Visit

Speaks Out Against Hegemony

OW0704014992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0141 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin on Tuesday expressed strong opposition to hegemony-seeking diplomacy and power politics, though he did not name a specific country.

In his memorial address delivered in a meeting held in Tokyo marking the 20th anniversary of Sino-Japanese diplomatic normalization, Jiang criticized attempts to establish hegemony and power politics in international relations.

The general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party said in establishing a new international order they have to break down hegemony-oriented policy and power politics, which he claims frustrate the weak and help the strong, violate sovereignty and interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

"China won't seek hegemony in international relations," he said.

Observers said Jiang was apparently referring to the United States in his strong opposition to hegemony-oriented policy and power politics.

The Chinese leadership has rejected Western criticism over human rights issues in China since the military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989 as "interferences in domestic matters based on hegemony-seeking diplomacy."

As for the Sino-Japanese relations, Jiang called for further expansion of economic and technical cooperation on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the normalization of ties.

However, Jiang also expressed his concern over the revival of Japanese militarism, saying that "we should not forget the lesson of Chinese suffering by Japanese militarism" from the 1930s to 1945.

The party chief said unstable elements such as political contradictions, economic friction, and religious and territorial disputes have been increasing in the wake of the demise of the Soviet Union.

Jiang called for establishing a new international order based on China's five principles of peaceful coexistence centering on noninterference in internal affairs.

As for Tokyo-Beijing ties, the party chief said, "the enhancement of Sino-Japan friendly relations will have an impact on the peace and development of the world." He expressed expectations for Japan's further economic cooperation to promote Beijing's reform-oriented, open-door policy.

Jiang vowed that China will maintain its reform policy for another 100 years. Jiang also pledged to promote democratization and establish a legal system for political stability and unity.

Jiang arrived in Tokyo Monday for a five-day visit to Japan.

Expresses Hope for Cooperation

OW0704054692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Report on a speech given by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, at the NHK Hall in Tokyo on 7 April; Jiang Zemin speaks in Chinese with simultaneous translation into Japanese given on screen subtitles; translated from the Japanese—recorded]

[Text] Visiting CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin, in a speech given this morning at the NHK Hall in Shibuya, Tokyo, expressed his hope for Japan's cooperation in China's modernization efforts, saying he supports Japan's positive role in building peace and prosperity in Asia, as well as the whole world, on the grounds of lessons learned from history.

Regarding bilateral relations between Japan and China, General Secretary Jiang said: China and Japan have a long history of bilateral exchanges extending over 2,000 years, and people in the two countries have cultivated a firm friendship; however, to our sorrow, Chinese people suffered from Japanese militarism for a couple of decades beginning in the 1930's, and even Japanese people had to suffer from their own conduct. Past events should be remembered as lessons for the future, and we should both have a correct understanding of history. On these grounds, the two countries can enter a bright future together.

Moreover, General Secretary Jiang Zemin stated:

[Begin Jiang recording] After the war, Japan took the path of peaceful progress. The choice resulted in the great progress of the Japanese economy, and the nation obtained a strong influence in the international community. The government and the people of China welcome Japan's pacifist stance. We support Japan's positive roles in building up peace and prosperity in Asia as well as the whole world. [end recording]

General Secretary Jiang Zemin thus noted that he expects Japan to support China's modernization efforts through its policy of positively contributing to the international community in the economic field.

Referring to the fact that the latest session of the National People's Congress determined to accelerate the opening up and reform policy before its close on 3 April, the general secretary stressed his resolve to carry on this policy, saying: We must lengthen our stride in the opening up and reform policy with more liberal ideology and bold trials. I strongly believe that our consistent efforts in the coming several decades will certainly result

in the great progress of China, and we will be able to offer much greater contributions to human civilization and global development.

Meets With Emperor Akihito 7 Apr

OW0704040892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin on Tuesday held an audience with Emperor Akihito amid widespread speculation that he may extend an invitation to the emperor to visit China.

The meeting took place at the imperial palace's audience room of Takenoma, the place where in 1978 the late Emperor Showa expressed his regret over Japan's invasion of China before and during World War II in an historic meeting with then-Chinese deputy Premier Deng Xiaoping.

The latest meeting marked the first between the emperor and a Chinese leader since April 1989, when Chinese Premier Li Peng had an audience with Emperor Akihito—only two months before the Tiananmen square military clampdown on prodemocracy demonstrators.

Following the audience, the emperor hosted a luncheon in the banquet room of Rensui.

The banquet was also attended by Crown Prince Naruhito, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and two dozen other dignitaries.

On Monday, Jiang expressed China's wish to welcome the emperor later this year, but Miyazawa avoided giving a clear-cut commitment on the matter, only saying Japan will take the request into "serious consideration."

Extends Invitation to Emperor

OW0704080192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin on Tuesday conveyed an invitation for Emperor Akihito and Emperor Michiko to visit China this fall, an Imperial Household Agency official said.

Jiang told the emperor in Chinese, "China hopes to welcome your imperial majesties this fall," according to Kiyoshi Sumiya, the agency's grand master of ceremonies.

Sumiya quoted the emperor as replying, "Thank you. I am aware that the government is considering this matter seriously."

In a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday, Jiang reiterated China's invitation for an imperial visit.

Miyazawa told Jiang that the government will seriously consider the Chinese invitation.

Promises No 'Tricky Issues'

OW0704121992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin said Tuesday his government would not try to take political advantage of a trip to China by Japanese Emperor Akihito.

In a meeting with Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Chairman Keigo Ouchi, Jiang said China would not confront the emperor with contentious issues such as ownership of the Senkaku Islands and Japanese compensation for suffering inflicted on Chinese before and during World War II.

"China will not submit tricky issues facing China and Japan when Emperor Akihito visits. The visit of the emperor to China is aimed at promoting friendly relations between the two countries," a DSP spokesman quoted Jiang as saying.

Jiang extended a formal invitation for a visit to China this autumn during an audience with the emperor at the Imperial Palace earlier in the day.

But some ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members have expressed concern that China might try to use such a visit to reassert its claim to the Senkaku Islands, which are located in the East China Sea.

China, Japan and Taiwan have each staked a claim to the islands, known for their rich fishing waters and possible deposits of offshore oil.

Jiang also met separately during the day with Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Deputy President Shin Kanemaru, Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe, Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida and United Social Democratic Party representative Satsuki Eda.

The Chinese leader hinted during his meeting with Kanemaru that he could accept the sending of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel abroad for disaster relief, party sources said.

"It is natural for countries to help other disaster-stricken nations," Jiang was quoted as telling Kanemaru, who sought support for a United Nations peacekeeping cooperation bill currently being debated in Japan's parliament.

A bill submitted by the government and ruling LDP to the upper house would allow SDF personnel to join peacekeeping missions abroad and to assist disaster relief operations overseas.

But Jiang told Eda that it is easier for Asian countries to misunderstand Japan's intentions, given its aggression in World War II.

SDP leader Tanabe also asked China to show more respect for human rights in light of concerns raised by the United States and West European countries.

But Jiang implied that greater affluence was a precondition to expanding human rights in China.

He also said China supports efforts toward disarmament and arms control and that China would not seek military hegemony even if it becomes an economic power.

Men Arrested for Jeering at Jiang

OW0704041392 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Three men—seemingly Chinese—were arrested at the NHK Hall this morning for violation of the Minor Offenses Law, after they booed at CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin who was making a speech there. According to the Metropolitan Police Department, the three men identified themselves as members of a Chinese prodemocracy group, and the police are still checking up on their records.

Jiang Responds to 'Harassment'

OW0704052792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0510 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin on Tuesday brushed aside harassment from a group of dissidents, saying loudly that Beijing's course and basic line of policies are "totally right."

As Jiang spoke to some 2,300 people at Tokyo's NHK hall Tuesday morning, Three apparently Chinese men hooted and jeered during the speech, denouncing the 1989 military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

Security guards immediately took them away. Nobody was hurt.

In the speech, Jiang expressed strong opposition to attempts at hegemony-seeking diplomacy and power politics in international relations, apparently alluding to the United States, which has become the sole superpower in the post-cold war era following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

"China won't seek hegemony in international relations," he said, and called for establishing a new international order based on China's five principles of peaceful coexistence centering on noninterference in internal affairs.

In the speech commemorating the 20th anniversary of Sino-Japanese diplomatic rapprochement, Jiang proposed further expansion of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries, but also voiced concern over a possible revival of Japanese militarism.

"The Chinese people have incurred great sufferings from Japan's militarism and so have the Japanese people," he said.

"We should not forget this and should use it as a lesson. We should take into consideration both positive and negative experiences in the Sino-Japanese relationship."

He said he is optimistic about the future of the bilateral relationship because the two countries were able to establish basic rules and lines for dialogue in the 20 years since normalizing diplomatic ties in 1972.

"The enhancement of Sino-Japanese friendly relations will have an impact on the peace and development of the world," he said.

The communist party leader, who arrived in Japan on Monday for a five-day official visit, also vowed that China will maintain its reform policy for another 100 years.

Jiang also pledged to promote democratization and establish a legal system for political stability and unity.

Calling the collapse of the Soviet Union the "largest change in the international situation since the end of the World War II," Jiang said there are still unstable elements such as political contradictions, economic friction, and religious and territorial disputes.

About 10 minutes into Jiang's speech, a man on the first floor stood up and shouted for attention in Japanese and the guards immediately took him out of the hall.

A few minutes later, another man on the second floor shouted in Chinese his opposition to the Chinese Communist Party and cited June 4 as the anniversary date for Beijing's bloody military crackdown on prodemocracy demonstrators in Tiananmen square in 1989.

A third man stood up to shout and was also caught by the guards.

Police said they have arrested the three for allegedly violating the minor offense law and are questioning them.

The three are believed to be members of the Japan branch of the Federation of Democracy in China (FDC), a Chinese group promoting democracy in China, the police said.

They brought a paper calling for democracy to the hall, police said.

The FDC Japan branch, which held a gathering in a park close to the hall in Shibuya, told KYODO News Service that the three were members of its group. But no other details were immediately known.

The general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party appeared surprised at first, but soon became calm and continued his speech.

LDP Leaders on Jiang Criticism of SDF Dispatch

OW0704061392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Tuesday dismissed criticism by Chinese Communist Party head Jiang Zemin of the Japanese Government's efforts to pass a

bill to allow the dispatch of troops to join United Nations peacekeeping operations, LDP officials said.

Koko Sato, chairman of the LDP's decision-making executive council, said "China is a military power and exports arms to third-party nations. It should be in no position to criticize Japan's peacekeeping operations activities."

Sato, LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, and LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki called in parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa and the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affair Bureau Chief Sakutaro Tanino to discuss relations with China, prior to their meeting with Jiang later in the day.

In a meeting Monday with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Jiang expressed concern about government plans to pass legislation to permit the dispatch of Self-Defense Forces troops to take part in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Caution Urged Regarding Emperor's China Trip

OW0704073692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki on Tuesday reiterated calls for government prudence in responding to China's invitation for a visit by Emperor Akihito.

"(The LDP leadership) has been calling on the government to deal with (China's request) cautiously," Watanuki told a news conference.

"I think the government has been dealing with it cautiously, too," he said.

Senior LDP officials have voiced irritation at China's reassertion of its sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea and over some Chinese legislators' demand for war reparations, LDP sources said.

In a related development, Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe called on the opponents of the proposed imperial visit to drop their opposition, saying, "I want them to view the future of Japan-Sino relations from a higher standpoint."

"As foreign minister, I am making wholehearted efforts to (realize the emperor's visit)," he told a press conference.

He said Japan would give its reply to China "in a not-so-faraway time."

Watanabe also said that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa asked Jiang on Monday to wait for a Japanese response on the matter.

Earlier in February, the government expressed its displeasure over passage of a Chinese law authorizing the Chinese Navy to forcibly repel ships from the waters around the Senkaku Islands, also claimed by China and Taiwan.

Both China and Taiwan call the islands, whose nearby waters abound in fishing resources, the Diaoyu Islands.

Japan maintains that the islands are Japanese territory, saying they were handed over to Japan in 1972 together with the Okinawa islands, which the United States occupied after World War II.

The sources said behind the LDP irritation is also the recent resurgence of demands for 24 trillion yen in war reparations.

The Chinese Government agreed to drop claims for war reparations in a 1972 joint communique signed by the then Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.

Chinese Illegals Promised Payment to 'Syndicate'

OW0604021192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 06 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Seven Chinese under arrest for allegedly trying to illegally enter Japan have confessed to promising about 2.5 million yen each to members of a smuggling syndicate, investigative sources said Monday.

The sources said the Chinese told police they signed contracts with an agent on the 2.5 million yen payment before leaving Fujian Province.

The Chinese paid the agent a small amount of money before their departure and were supposed to pay the rest after earning it in Japan, the sources said.

The Chinese were arrested last Thursday on Hachijo Island, 300 kilometers south of Tokyo.

Tokyo, U.S. Fail To Settle SII Differences

OW0404060392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0505 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] Washington, April 3 (KYODO)—Negotiators from the United States and Japan have failed to narrow a gap on ways for revitalizing bilateral trade talks known as the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII), Japanese diplomats said Friday.

In the two-day meeting, which ended Friday, the U.S. asked Japan about recent tightening of antimonopoly law, and Japan asked the U.S. to make further efforts to cope with its fiscal deficit.

They examined what points and factors should be discussed for revitalizing the SII talks, which the two countries started in 1989 to help eliminate trade barriers, the diplomats said.

The two sides, however, still have different opinions on certain points and agreed to continue discussions, they said.

Bill Countering U.S. Antitrust Policy Denied

OW0704022692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe on Tuesday denied a news report that Japan is studying introducing a bill to counter a new U.S. policy that extends antitrust laws to overseas businesses.

Speaking at a press conference after the day's cabinet meeting, Watanabe also reiterated his concern over the U.S. move, saying, "such a thing cannot happen."

However, he denied a report that his ministry plans to compile a special bill which can prevent Japanese companies from obeying orders of U.S. antitrust authorities.

The U.S. Government announced Friday it will apply U.S. antitrust laws to foreign business practices harmful to American exports in a move widely seen as primarily targeting Japan.

Watanabe said Japan will remind the U.S. of its displeasure through future contacts with U.S. officials, though the government is considering no special meeting on the matter.

He also said murky prospects over farm trade negotiations between the U.S. and the European Community (EC) makes it difficult to definitely set the agenda for the upcoming gathering of trade ministers of major economic powers in Japan later this month.

"The situation is changing by the minute," he said.

He added the topics for the so-called quadrilateral meeting of the U.S., the EC, Japan, and Canada will not be set at least until it is seen whether the U.S.-EC summit meeting on April 22 can produce a breakthrough in the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks.

MITI Asks Firms To Buy More Foreign Chips

OW0604112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Monday asked Japanese semiconductor users to do more to help improve foreign access to the Japanese chip market, as part of its effort to honor a bilateral chip trade pact with the United States.

At a meeting of some 270 Japanese chip-using companies, foreign makers, and Japanese distributors of foreign chips, MITI called for increased design-in schemes and technological tie-ups between users and makers, as well as steady implementation of foreign chip-purchasing plans users are requested to compile regularly.

The participants were also asked to buy more from small- and medium-sized foreign chip suppliers and to help encourage smaller Japanese companies to use foreign chips.

The meeting, the fourth since it was launched in 1989, came after it was reported that the market share of foreign-made chips in Japan was stagnant in the final quarter of last year.

MITI announced last week that the foreign market share for the October-December quarter came to 16.1 percent, down from 16.2 percent for the previous three months.

The figure includes "captive" semiconductors sold by a U.S. producer to its own Japanese unit and "branded" chips which are made by Japanese companies but sold on the Japanese market under foreign companies' brand names.

Under another calculation formula, which excludes these products and is adopted by the U.S., the figure was 14.4 percent, a 0.1 percentage point rise.

Both figures are far short of the 20 percent target required to be attained by the end of this year in line with the new five-year chip trade pact which went into effect last August.

Hideaki Kumano, director general of MITI's machinery and information industries bureau, told the meeting that it is in the best interests of Japan to seek "coexistence and coprosperity" with foreign chip industries, though the current economic slump is a damper on chip sales.

In response, Japan's four chip-related industrial organizations, such as the user's committee of foreign semiconductors, outlined their various programs intended for greater foreign access to the market, including promotion of design-in projects, and exhibitions and seminars on foreign chips.

MITI Urges Foreign Paper Product Purchases

OW0604142792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1410 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will call on four industries to expand purchases of foreign paper products, a senior ministry official said Monday.

The move is in line with Sunday's agreement between Japan and the United States on improving foreign access to Japan's paper market, Vice Minister Yuji Tanahashi said at a press conference.

The four industries are the cosmetic, food processing, pharmaceutical, and publishing sectors, Tanahashi said.

The ministry selected the industries because of their relatively large volumes of cardboard paper used for packages, he said.

The ministry will also ask domestic industries to set procurement guidelines for foreign paper makers to easily sell their products in Japan, including specifying persons in charge, Tanahashi said.

As a result of the talks between the two nations, the Japanese Government has promised the U.S. to ask

major domestic companies to buy more foreign paper products as well as to survey Japan's paper distribution system and major industries' purchases of foreign paper.

Okinawa Landowners Reluctant To Renew Leases

OW0504132792 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 5 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Landowners who reject the renewal of contracts for land being used by military bases have become less dependent on revenues from their land, it was learned in the "survey of landowners rejecting leases," conducted by the University of Okinawa Regional Research Center (represented by Professor Moriteru Arasaki). As the generations pass, landowners have begun to think that their land might be used more efficiently if it were returned and diverted to some other purpose. These landowners inherited the land from their parents; most are local government or corporate employees. The survey shows that "landowners, not pressed by kinship or people in their community to sign the leases, are now clearly indicating their intention to use their land for peaceful purposes."

The center sent questionnaires to 68 landowners who had rejected the contracts and who are not members of organizations like the Antiwar Military Landowners' Association. Of these, 34 landowners responded. In the questionnaire, which consists of 21 questions, the center asks owners how their land was expropriated; how much they depend on revenues from the land; why they reject signing contracts; and so forth.

About 65 percent of the respondents are in their 40's and 50's. Most of them inherited their land—expropriated after WWII—from their parents. In terms of land area, 20 percent of the respondents' holdings range from 990 square meters [sq m] to 1,980 sq m. The largest among the respondents' land is 29,700 sq m, the smallest is less than 330 sq m.

Asked "how much they depend on revenue from the land," 15 out of the 34 respondents said: "It supplements living costs just a little; this money is saved for unexpected expenses." Ten other landowners said that "the revenue is no big help, but it is essential"; three said that "it helps a lot." There were three landowners fully dependent on these revenues.

More than 60 percent of the respondents said that the rent "should be raised," indicating dissatisfaction with the present rent. Their reason: "If the land is diverted to some other purpose, it will earn more money," and "the rent is lower than that in civilian areas." Some said: "We should be paid more for the inconvenience." It is notable that landowners who are now claiming their rights have emerged.

As a reason for rejecting the renewal of the contracts, 52 percent said this was because they support "antiwar activities" and hope for "peace." Also, 80 percent said that they want overall return. Some other landowners said "we want to use land for ourselves"; some said "we want to protect our ancestral land."

Several respondents agreed to renew the contracts, although they had initially rejected this course. They said they felt "mental anguish" and were annoyed by "continuous efforts to persuade them undertaken by people from the central government, Okinawa Government and their communities."

G-7 'Likely' To Propose Dividing Monopolies

OW0704105592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1047 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations are likely to propose breaking up monopolistic enterprises in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and East European countries as a way to help them shift to a market economy, Japanese officials said Tuesday.

The proposal will be put forward at a G-7 ministerial meeting in Munster, Germany, on May 8-9, the officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said.

Economic and trade ministers from the G-7 nations are expected to make several proposals in a joint declaration to be issued at the meeting with their counterparts from the CIS and Eastern Europe.

Germany, which will sponsor the meeting, seems to want to complete preparations for the aid package for the CIS and Eastern Europe ahead of the July G-7 summit in Munich, by realizing the contents of the declaration in cooperation with other G-7 nations, they said.

The G-7 nations have already agreed on a 24 billion U.S. dollar aid package for Russia.

Among the G-7 proposals is creation of new economic structures such as transformation of military industry to civilian production, nurturing of smaller enterprises, and introduction of competition, the officials said.

While offering cooperation, the G-7 nations are also likely to propose vitalization of trade activities within the CIS or the East European region, as well as with Western countries, and preparation of laws to promote investment by the West, they said.

The former Soviet Union and East European nations had promoted integration of production as a major policy toward building a socialist economy. As a result, most of each of thousands of products are made by a single concern, without effective competition.

Under the circumstances, liberalization of pricing has led to skyrocketing prices, causing economic turmoil.

In two rounds of preparatory talks for the Munster meeting, participants agreed that invitation of foreign firms and creation of smaller companies, as well as the introduction of competition by breaking up monopolies,

can help enhance the supply of goods and promote economic reconstruction, the MITI officials said.

They also agreed on the need for free trade pacts and the abolition of tariffs and import limits so that supplies can be delivered all over the CIS.

The Munster meeting, proposed by Germany in January, will be attended by Russia, Byelarus, the Ukraine, and Kazakhstan from the CIS, and by Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary from the East European region, the officials said.

Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe will take part in the meeting, they said.

Finance Minister on Economic Assistance to CIS

OW0704031192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said on Tuesday Russia will need 18 billion dollars to cover its balance of international payments deficit.

Hata also told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that Japan will work out a plan on economic assistance to Russia toward the meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) slated for late April.

Hata cited 12 billion dollars as the direct shortfall in Russia, but added that another 6 billion dollars in allowances would be needed.

Germany and the U.S. announced last Wednesday a 24 billion dollar package by the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries to help Russia speed up economic reform programs and overcome the current economic crisis.

The package includes 18 billion dollars to settle the problems related to the balance of international payments deficit and 6 billion dollars to stabilize the ruble against hard currencies.

Hata said, "Japan is by no means tightfisted about the assistance. We are quite willing to extend a helping hand to Russia, which is struggling to transform its economy into a capitalist system."

"G-7 countries are agreed that we cannot allow the economic reforms to regress," he said.

But he was cautious about Japan's providing new bilateral support. "We still have political restraints (for providing large bilateral financial assistance)," referring to the territorial dispute over the northern islands.

Hata suggested Japan's assistance will be given through the IMF, saying discussions among G-7, G-10 and the IMF should be held over the issue.

Support for Russian Membership in IMF Signaled

OW0704040292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0342 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa signaled support Monday for Russia's membership in the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a Foreign Ministry official said.

"I believe that Russian President (Boris) Yeltsin and others are taking pains to inform the Russian people of the IMF's advice. Japan would like to cooperate (with Russia) through the IMF," Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

The IMF has been advising Russia on economic restructuring.

Miyazawa made the comment to Aleksandr Yakovlev, head of a Contemporary Japan Research Center and an ex-aide to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, and other Russian opinion leaders who attended last week's 13th Japan-Russia Symposium.

Vladren Martynov, director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, a Moscow-based think tank, said that a consensus in favor of joining the IMF has been reached among a majority of the (domestic) political leadership.

Kanemaru Doubtful About DPRK Inspections

OW0704073292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0707 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) strongman Shin Kanemaru said Tuesday he has declined to visit North Korea later this month because of his "feeling of suspicion" that Pyongyang will not allow international inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Attending an inauguration ceremony of the LDP mission to celebrate North Korean leader Kim Il-song's 80th birthday on April 15, Kanemaru also cited unclear prospects of Tokyo-Pyongyang negotiations aimed at normalizing diplomatic ties.

But the LDP vice president said he hopes the mission will make efforts so the Governments of Japan and North Korea could get along better in the future.

Six rounds of bilateral talks have ended in a stalemate because of differences over a number of issues, such as North Korea's nuclear inspections and Japan's compensation for losses which North Korea says it suffered during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula and after World War II.

In September 1990, Kanemaru and Makoto Tanabe, then-vice chairman of Japan's largest opposition Social Democratic Party, visited North Korea and issued a joint declaration with the (North) Korean Workers' Party.

The declaration pledged Japanese compensation for the postwar years and urged inter-governmental talks on establishing diplomatic relations.

Kanemaru brushed aside criticism about 19 LDP Diet members leaving Japan to visit North Korea when the Diet is discussing political reform and a bill on Japan's participation in the U.N.-sponsored peacekeeping operations.

"We should not be narrow-minded when thinking about future relationships between Japan and North Korea or about peace in Asia," he said, adding that the more members there are in the mission, the better.

Miyazawa Says No Reconsideration of Aid to Peru

OW0704084292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday he has no intention of reconsidering Japan's financial aid to Peru following Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's abrupt dissolution Sunday of the country's opposition-controlled congress and suspension of its Constitution.

Miyazawa also told reporters that Japan hopes the latest political turmoil in Peru will subside as soon as possible.

But Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe expressed concern about the Peruvian leader's emergency measures, saying, "I cannot understand why Fujimori, who has been struggling to democratize his country, suddenly resorted to such a policy."

Speaking at Tuesday's session of the House of Councillors Foreign Affairs Committee, Watanabe said he does not necessarily oppose Fujimori's emergency measures which, he said, stemmed from the president's "pure intention" to wipe out poverty, narcotics, and terrorism in Peru.

Watanabe said, however, that "democracy also places importance on procedural matters."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Japan will look at how other countries react to what he called the "regrettable setback" in Peru in considering whether to withhold some 16.5 billion yen in aid pledged during Fujimori's visit here in mid-March.

"We must first of all see how the international community would react to the developments," spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa told reporters.

Hanabusa noted that the Organization of American States (OAS) will be meeting on the situation in Peru soon.

Fujimori, who announced a "government of national reconstruction" in a televised speech Sunday, said his actions were necessary to stem "chaos and corruption" and to overcome obstacles to economic reconstruction.

Hanabusa criticized the actions, saying, "President Fujimori's latest decision is a regrettable setback."

"The Japanese Government strongly desires that the situation will quickly return to normalcy and his reform efforts be continued in accordance with the democratic process," he said.

Fujimori, son of Japanese emigrants to Peru, took office in July 1990.

Spokesman Says Cutoff of Aid to Peru Possible

OW0704104892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japan does not rule out a halt in its economic aid to Peru following Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's abrupt dissolution Sunday of the country's opposition-controlled congress and suspension of its Constitution, spokesmen said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's chief spokesman said that while Japan is not giving immediate consideration to withholding aid, debate may surface after it can be determined whether Fujimori's emergency measures are temporary or not.

Fujimori's actions were "understandable" due to the deadlock in congress but were regrettable given his past efforts to establish democratic practices, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa indicated to Japanese reporters that Japan intends to call on Peruvian diplomats in Tokyo to explain the rationale behind the announcement of the emergency measures.

He said the announcement was a "regrettable setback" that took Japan by surprise.

The spokesman's remarks on aid appeared to supercede Prime Minister Miyazawa's comment to reporters earlier in the day that he is "not thinking" of reconsidering Japan's extension of 16.5 billion yen in financial aid pledged during Fujimori's visit here last month. [passage omitted]

Miyazawa, Australia's Evans on Uruguay Round

OW0704105292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0957 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Australian Trade and Foreign Minister Gareth Evans agreed Tuesday that speedy progress on the Uruguay Round of trade talks is essential if negotiations are to be finalized within the year, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Evans urged Miyazawa to take an active stance on the negotiations, which are sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the official said.

The talks have snagged over liberalization of agricultural trade.

If there is no progress before the American presidential election, Evans said, then the round is likely to be delayed until 1993, and even then the outlook is not bright.

Miyazawa replied that Japan will be "serious" about the trade talks if the U.S. and the European Community are, the official said.

It is unrealistic to wait until the Munich summit of leaders of seven industrialized nations slated for July to give impetus to the talks, Miyazawa was quoted as telling Evans.

Evans, here to attend a private-sector conference, also expressed concern that a pledge made to U.S. President George Bush in January to make efforts to increase imports of auto parts might interfere with free trade practices.

Evans said he hoped Japanese businesses would continue to procure parts based on price competitiveness and market principles, the official said.

Australia exported 89 million dollars worth of auto parts to Japan in 1990.

In reply to a question from Miyazawa, Evans expressed support for the Japanese Government's efforts to pass a controversial bill enabling the Self-Defense Forces to join in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Australia's Dawkins Stresses Regional Cooperation

OW0604140992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Australian Treasurer John Dawkins on Monday called for strengthening multilateral cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and boosting bilateral economic ties with Japan, government officials said.

Meeting Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on the first day of a four-day visit to Japan, Dawkins said it was important for Japan and Australia to deepen their discussions on a wide range of economic matters, a Finance Ministry official said.

Hata agreed with his Australian counterpart's emphasis on regional cooperation among Pacific Rim countries, which Dawkins said are at diverse stages of development, the official said.

The two also reportedly agreed that reaching agreement in the current round of global trade talks is vital to helping world trade, and that failure in the so-called Uruguay Round of talks would leave a negative legacy for future generations.

Australia's most important ties are those with Asian nations, Dawkins reportedly said, adding that he is closely watching developments in Cambodia and China.

Hata told Dawkins the Japanese economy is in an adjustment phase, with housing, capital investment, and auto sales all soft. But he noted the country's stable prices, generally favorable labor relations, and brisk consumer spending.

Explaining recent fiscal and monetary measures to boost the economy, Hata reportedly said the Japanese Government is seeking to improve the quality of life, focusing on shorter working hours.

Firms Promote Joint Clothing Venture in SRV

OW0704080992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0747 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Japanese trading companies are actively engaged in joint ventures for clothing production in Vietnam, company officials said Tuesday.

The ventures, turning out products including Japanese kimonos and sweaters, are prospering under the Vietnamese Government's policy of encouraging foreign investment and the Japanese trading firms' strategy of using Vietnamese labor in the face of the Japanese labor shortage, the officials said.

In most ventures, Japanese companies are providing production equipment and technology.

Japanese companies have made no major investment in Vietnam, which has yet to introduce a law to encourage joint ventures. But clothing manufacturing operations, which require only small investments, are easy to set up, the officials said.

The trading firm Nissho-Iwai Corp. said a plant in Ho Chi Minh City started making kimonos for the company in February at an annual rate of 100,000.

Nissho-Iwai coordinates the project and handles exports of materials and imports of finished products, company officials said.

Nichietsu Sangyo Co. in Kyoto, owned by six kimono manufacturers in Japan, provides production know-how for the Vietnamese plant, takes orders in Japan, and delivers the products to Japanese customers.

Nissho-Iwai and Soei Sen-i Kogyo Co., a sweater manufacturer in Osaka's suburbs, have also started importing sweaters made by the Ho Chi Minh City export-import and investment corp., company officials said.

Nissho-Iwai and Soei have provided knitting machines and other production equipment worth 40 million yen to the Vietnamese corporation for annual production of 60,000 sweaters, the officials said.

Marubeni Corp. and a small uniform manufacturer in Saitama Prefecture, near Tokyo, have been pushing a project for Vietnamese production of women's work uniforms since last year, company officials said. Present plans call for annual production of 300,000 uniforms.

Itoman Corp., another trading firm, has tied up with a kimono wholesaler in Kyoto in a project for annual

production of 6,000 kimonos in Ho Chi Minh City, starting late this year, company officials said.

Watanabe on Possibility of Diet Double Election

OW0504092192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Sunday he will call for a double election for both houses of the Diet if the opposition camp holds up passage of a bill aimed to strengthen Japan's assistance to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In an interview with TV Asahi, Watanabe said he will advise Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to dissolve the House of Representatives if the main opposition group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), resorts to such resistance tactics as walking at a "snail's pace" to cast votes in the House of Councillors.

But Watanabe, also deputy prime minister, said it is up to the prime minister to decide when to dissolve the 512-seat lower chamber.

The SDP strongly opposes the government-proposed bill, which would allow Self-Defense Forces troops to be sent overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The peacekeeping operations bill has cleared the lower house which is controlled by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. It is pending in the opposition-dominated House of Councillors.

Election for half the 252 seats in the upper house are expected for July 26, and some have speculated that the prime minister might dissolve the House of Representatives and call a general election at the same time as the upper house poll.

60 Seats Said Make-or-Break Line for Miyazawa

OW0504143492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1325 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—Many Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] politicians increasingly say that winning at least 60 seats in the House of Councillors election this summer is the make-or-break line for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government.

LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki hinted that failure to win 60 seats could prompt strong calls from within the party to oust Miyazawa.

With 75 incumbent LDP seats at stake, if the number should drop to 60, the Miyazawa government's "future will be overshadowed," Watanuki told Kyodo News Service.

Watanuki said it would be "hard for the LDP to increase its seats from the present level," apparently voicing concern that a recent spate of money scandals involving LDP politicians may alienate voters as they did in two recent by-elections in Nara and Miyagi Prefectures.

In those elections, opposition candidates campaigning on anticorruption platforms defeated LDP candidates in constituencies long deemed strongholds of conservative politicians.

An expected 255 candidates will contest 126 seats, half the upper chamber's total of 252, in the House of Councillors elections expected for July 26.

Of the 126 seats at stake, 76 are to be contested in one- to four-seat constituencies scattered nationwide, while 50 seats are to be apportioned in proportion to the number of votes garnered by each party under a proportional representation system.

The LDP now plans to field 54 candidates for the constituencies and 27 under the proportional representation system. Of the LDP's 114 upper house members, 39 are serving terms to expire in June 1995.

The No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), has 67 upper house incumbents, 22 of whose seats are to be contested in July. It plans to field 34 candidates—14 for constituencies and 20 for proportional representation.

Most LDP politicians say they believe it will be impossible to retain the 75 seats up for grabs in the July vote in view of voters' disaffection with successive scandals involving LDP politicians and with the party's slow pace of reforming its money politics.

Senior members of factions headed by Miyazawa and former State Minister Toshio Komoto regard even the 60 seats as too high to attain, and they balk at drawing a strict make-or-break line.

The situation surrounding the July vote "is not that easy," said a member of Miyazawa's faction, the second-biggest one within the LDP. "Our primary target is to secure 60 seats."

A senior member of the Komoto faction, the fifth-largest, concurred, saying he would be satisfied "if the LDP could recoup its upper chamber majority in the next upper house election in 1995."

Political analysts said that if the LDP cannot secure the 60 seats, the party may have to entice some opposition politicians into an LDP-controlled cabinet after the July vote in a bid to smooth parliamentary business.

Some analysts said the LDP may even call simultaneous elections for both chambers of the Diet.

Former Labor Minister Toshio Yamaguchi, a close ally of Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, said, "64 seats are the make-or-break line." Watanabe, also deputy prime minister and leader of the LDP's No. 4 faction, is widely reported to be seeking to succeed Miyazawa.

"If the LDP cannot reach this line, that will mean that (voters) questioned the ability and leadership of the prime minister in steering state affairs," Yamaguchi said.

Nikkeiren Meeting Names Four Vice Presidents

OW0704050292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0457 GMT 07 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—A top-level meeting of the federation of employers associations (Nikkeiren) on Tuesday named four executives as vice presidents, officials of the big-business organization said.

The nominees were Keiichi Konaga, 61, president of Arabian Oil Co., Jiro Nemoto, 63, president of Nippon Yusen K.K., Kuniji Miyazaki, 62, chairman of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, and Hachiro Koyama, 69, chairman of Smithkline Beecham Japan Ltd., the Japanese subsidiary of the U.S. pharmaceutical manufacturer.

Their appointments to Nikkeiren vice presidencies are subject to approval at the organization's general meeting scheduled for May 20, the officials said.

The four will join six other Nikkeiren vice presidents, including Jiro Kawake, chairman of Oji Paper Co., the officials said.

LDP To Study Measures To Boost Stock Market

OW0504081792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0708 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is expected to begin study as early as this week on measures aimed at bolstering the depressed Tokyo stock market, party sources said Sunday.

An LDP project team, headed by Shizuka Kamei, is hoping to work out a package of measures that will have immediate effects on the stock market and boost the faltering economy, the sources said.

The LDP is increasingly concerned over the continuing sharp drop in share prices despite a 0.75-point cut in the official discount rate and the government's announcement of a package of emergency economic measures.

But it is uncertain whether the project team will be able to come up with truly effective measures.

"There is no specific remedy," a senior party member said. "After all, the securities industry will have to rely on its efforts (to rebuild the stock market), including utilization of the stock investment trust."

Officials at the Finance Ministry and in the brokerage industry are also skeptical about any measures the team might work out. "If there are measures that truly work, they should have been adopted a long time ago," said a ministry official.

In mid-February the LDP made several proposals to the government to enliven the stock market, including abolition of the securities transaction tax and introduction of a system under which a company can buy its own stock.

But those proposals have yet to be discussed at the LDP's tax system council and the government's legislative bureau before they can be put in practice.

Minivehicle Sales Said To Drop 8% in Fiscal 1991

OW0604081192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0644 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Domestic sales of minivehicles in fiscal 1991 ended March 31 decreased 8.0 percent from the year before to 1,750,296, the Japan Minivehicles Association reported Monday.

The association said passenger cars accounted for 835,397 of the sales, down 4.5 percent, and commercial vehicles for 914,899, down 11.0 percent.

In March, the association said, sales fell from a year earlier for the 11th straight month, totaling 211,156 vehicles, down 7.3 percent from march 1991.

Sales of passenger cars declined 2.1 percent to 108,202, while those of commercial vehicles plunged 12.2 percent to 102,954.

Suzuki Motor Corp. remained the top minivehicle seller, with its sales totaling 60,137, down 5.3 percent, followed by Daihatsu Motor Co. with sales of 55,367, down 2.5 percent, the association said.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. ranked third with sales of 38,607, down 5.7 percent.

Tokyo Launches Major Study of Environment Tax

OW0604085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0837 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—The government has launched a full-scale study on a proposed fuel tax to generate funds to help save the global environment, officials said Monday.

The study, undertaken by the Finance Ministry and the Environmental Agency, focuses on the possibility of imposing a levy on oil products, such as gasoline and light oil, the officials said.

They said the proposed tax may be replaced with a tax increase on tobacco or liquor, as some government officials are concerned over the impact of a fuel tax on domestic industrial activity.

Money raised through the levy would be used for cutting emissions of carbon dioxide, believed to contribute to global warming, known as greenhouse effect, and for protecting the environment in developing countries, the officials said.

The Finance Ministry is taking a cautious approach on the issue because its proposal for an international contribution tax failed to materialize last year, the officials said.

The Environmental Agency advocates a levy similar to one introduced in such Scandinavian countries as Sweden and Norway.

The European Community also plans to introduce a tax next March aimed at keeping carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels through the end of this century, the officials said.

The United Nations conference on environment and development, which will organize the earth summit in Brazil in June, estimates the global cost of environmental preservation at 125 billion dollars annually from 1993 to 2000.

Under that estimate, industrialized nations would have to set aside an additional 70 billion dollars a year in official development aid to developing countries, the officials said.

The officials said Japan may be asked to put up about 7 billion dollars a year, some 10 percent of the estimated cost.

The government's revenue from taxes imposed on fuel is estimated at 2,168 billion yen in fiscal 1992.

If the government tries to raise the required amount from fuel tax revenue, it would have to raise the tax rates in fuel to nearly 50 percent, the officials said.

SCC Resumes Satellite Telecommunication Service

OW0604100292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 6 KYODO—Space Communications Corp. (SCC) said Monday it has resumed commercial telecommunications service via Japan's Superbird-B satellite after a lapse of 16 months.

The Tokyo-based company said 20 television stations and other enterprises, which have switched over to its competitor, are scheduled to return to the company toward May. In addition, five companies will be added to a list of its clients, the company said.

The company suspended the service in December 1990 because Superbird-A developed trouble. The fiasco followed the failure to launch a new satellite, Superbird-B, into orbit around the earth in February 1990.

The new Superbird-A was put into successful orbit around the earth in February.

North Korea

Kim Il-song Lauded as 'Lodestar' of Nation

SK0704104792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 7 Apr 92

["Respected Comrade Kim Il-song Is Great Lodestar of National Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 7 (KCNA)—The respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great lodestar who propounded a unique idea and theory on national reunification and laid down the outstanding strategic and tactical policies and ways, indicating a bright road to national reunification, declares NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article says:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught that Korea's reunification is an issue of rejoining the artificially divided blood vessels of the nation, achieving national harmony and realising national independence throughout the country.

This idea on the essence and nature of national reunification is the starting point of his theory on national reunification based on the chuche idea.

Basing himself on a scientific analysis of the historical cause of the problem of national reunification, its essence and nature, he put forward the basic policy of reunifying the country independently by the Korean people's own efforts without any outside interference and on a democratic principle and by peaceful means.

Responding to the demand of the changed situation, he laid down the three principles of national reunification— independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity—which represents the basic policy of national reunification to suit the new historical conditions.

The three principles have become the nation's common principle of reunification since the North and the South agreed on them and announced them at home and abroad through their July 4 joint statement.

Comrade Kim Il-song laid down the great principle of defining the method of national reunification by applying the three principles.

He said:

"Reunification by means of confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments is the great principle of defining the method of national reunification suited to the present situation in our country. The only and quickest way for the North and South to reunify the country peacefully by ending national division and reconciling and uniting each other as a homogeneous nation is to put this great principle into practice."

The three principles of national reunification and the great principle of defining the method of national reunification and the proposal for establishing a democratic confederal republic of Koryo, their embodiment, put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song serve as a solid cornerstone and a valuable asset for national reunification.

Comrade Kim Il-song, with a deep penetration into the situation entering into the 1990s, laid down a five-point policy of national reunification as a decisive measure to

pave the way for reunification with the internal forces of the nation. The five- point policy—creation of a peaceful climate for national reunification, realisation of free travel and complete opening, creation of an international climate favourable for reunification, development of North- South dialogue and formation of a national united front—is a militant banner and beacon which indicates a short cut to achieving the reunification in the 1990s by overcoming the obstacles in the way of reunification.

He initiated high-level talks between the North and the South, with premiers heading the sides, and showed deep concern in the successful progress of the talks.

His wise leadership and the energetic activities of our party brought about such a great event as adoption and effectuation of "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" and "Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" in the history of the reunification movement of our nation.

Our glorious party is standing in the van of the nationwide struggle of our people to achieve reunification in the 1990s.

It is the unshakable determination and will of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il not to allow the division of the homogeneous nation but to reunify the country without fail in our generation having Comrade Kim Il-song.

Our people who advance under the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong- il, the guiding star of reunification, upholding the programme of national reunification indicated by Comrade Kim Il-song, the great lodestar of national reunification, will certainly accomplish the cause of national reunification, overcoming the obstacles and difficulties standing in the way of reunification with concerted efforts of the nation.

South Korea

DPRK Official: Kim Chong-il Rise Not Imminent

SK0504080492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 5 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea will decide on ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord April 9 at the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA], a visiting Pyongyang official said Saturday [4 April].

He denied reports that North Korea's heir-apparent Kim Chong-il will take over the country's leadership from his father Kim Il-song during the assembly session.

Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of North Korean Workers' Party Central Committee, said in an interview with YOMIURI SHIMBUN that his government will make the decision on ratification April 9.

Hwang is in Tokyo to attend a seminar.

This is the first time that a Pyongyang official indicated a specific date on ratification. North Korea signed the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency last Jan. 30 but delayed putting the accord into effect.

The Supreme People's Assembly convenes from April 8.

"Inspection will be conducted according to the regulations. The issue is already solved," Hwang said, reiterating comments by other North Korean officials that inpsection will soon follow ratification.

On reports that Kim Il-song will hand over his presidency to his son during the assembly, Hwang said, "there will be no such event. It was never discussed at the party Central Committee."

Observers speculated that the power transfer will be around Kim Il-song's 80th birthday coming up April 15.

He also denied that the son will be appointed the new Workers' Party general secretary during the assembly.

"General secretary is elected at the party congress," Hwang said, "the Central Committee normally meets six months in advance before announcing the opening of party congress but there is no such discussion at present."

Draft Nuclear Inspection Regulations Compared

SK0504151392 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 5 Apr 92 p 2

[Article on the contents of the draft regulations on South-North Korean nuclear inspection, by reporter Kim Chin-kuk]

[Text] An item-by-item comparison of the South side's draft regulations governing South-North mutual nuclear inspections with the North's draft regulations on inspection designed to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, both of which CHUNGANG ILBO exclusively obtained on 4 April, is as follows:

Kinds, Frequency, and Period of Inspections (Paragraph 2)

Where the South proposes that regular inspections be kept separate from special inspections, that the regular inspections be conducted every quarter, with each inspection occurring within a seven-day limit, and that special inspections be limited to 12 rounds a year, with each inspection having a five-day time limit, the North side proposes in Paragraph 16 of its draft that inspections be conducted according to what the two sides find agreeable.

Inspection Team (Paragraph 3)

Where the South side proposes that a list of no more than 50 names be exchanged and kept by each side; that the inspection teams be composed of no more than 15 members and headed by members of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee; and that these teams can be split up into smaller teams of more than three members at each

site, the North side proposes in Paragraph 14 that inspections teams covering nuclear bases be composed of 10 members; that teams covering the nuclear facilities be composed of five members or so; and that namelists be exchanged within 10 days of the regulations on inspections becoming effective.

Targets of Inspection (Paragraph 4)

Where the South side proposes that inspections be conducted at 56 sites a year, with regular ones occurring at 16 and special ones at 40 sites, limiting the number of military bases to within 20, the North uses in Paragraph 3 an abstract concept that the targets of inspection be chosen based on the principle of simultaneously dissipating misgivings caused by nuclear weapons. Also, the North side proposes that nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be made targets of inspection when the past and present existence of nuclear weapons (Paragraph 8) and nuclear material and nuclear facilities (Paragraph 10) can be proved objectively.

Exchange of Information (Paragraph 5)

The South side's proposal calls for information on the nuclear facilities already in existence to be exchanged within 10 days after the regulations on inspection are adopted; for information on new ones to be exchanged at the same a report is submitted to the International Atomic Energy Agency; and for information on any changes to be exchanged within 15 days after their occurrence. Also, the South side proposes that data on inspections requested through the Joint Nuclear Control Committee be provided within 15 days after it meets; when requested, data on inspections be given immediately upon the arrival of the nuclear inspection teams for regular inspections, and data requested by the inspection teams for special inspections to be provided right away.

The North side proposes that data on nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be given 10 days before the inspections; that additional data be given within a week of a request being made, regardless of in whose possession it may be (Paragraph); that data on nuclear facilities and nuclear material be given within 10 days before the inspections and data on new ones six months before the related nuclear materials are brought in (Paragraph 11).

Procedures of Inspections (Paragraph 6)

The South side's proposal says that in the case of regular inspections, the two sides exchange inspection schedules at the meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and the party hosting the inspection provide transportation for the inspectors, while in the case of special inspections, the inspection schedule be given to the hosting party 24 hours before the arrival of the inspectors and the hosting party provide guidance for the inspectors to the sites within six hours of receiving an inspection schedule.

The North side proposes that information on inspections be given to the hosting party five days before the actual inspection take place. (Paragraph 9)

Methods of Inspection (Paragraph 6)

The South side would allow for the installation of sealed surveillance equipment (closed circuit TV), along with eyewitness inspections, sample-taking for tests, the use of measuring equipment, photographing, recording, videotaping, the use of writing materials, and analyzing equipment. The South side also would allow for asking on the spot questions, along with free use of communications equipment, telephones, and radios. (Paragraph 7)

However, the North side proposes that inspections be conducted as a way of verifying the results of examination by employing an accounting and supervision system of the nuclear material currently in use and that these be decided according to agreement between the two sides (Paragraph 12) and that inspection equipment and means be decided according to agreement between the two sides (Paragraph 16). Actually, the North side would prohibit inspectors from installing equipment by barring them from approaching the nuclear material and nuclear facilities without consent from the party hosting the inspection under the excuse that operation of nuclear facilities cannot be allowed to be interfered with. (Paragraph 13)

Guarantee of Personal Safety and Offer of Convenience (Paragraph 7)

The South side proposes that the host side form a guidance team headed by one member of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and provide the inspectors with an office, office supplies, and communications facilities. The North side's proposal, too, stipulates that guidance, site maps, and other necessary data be provided.

Settlement of Disputes (Paragraph 8)

Where the South side insists on quick settlement of disputes occurring in the course of inspection Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings, the North side has no specific proposals on this.

Results of Inspection and Their Correction (Paragraph 9)

Where the South side proposes that the findings of inspections be submitted to the Joint Nuclear Control Committee at the next meeting and that the nuclear control committee will analyze and assess them and then take measures, such as ordering the discontinuation of the facilities, sealing, and abolition, and verify them at the next round of inspection.

The North side proposes that reports on the results of inspections be made after having the head of the inspection team and officer of the host side in charge of inspection sign on them (Paragraph 20), that the Joint Nuclear Control Committee discuss the reports at a meeting to be called within 10 days after the conclusion of the inspection (Paragraph 21), and that inspections be

conducted continuously in sites where nuclear weapons exist at the request of any one side (Paragraph 22).

Correction, Supplement (Paragraph 10)

Both sides propose that correction and supplements be made in accordance with agreement between the two sides.

Effectuation (Paragraph 11)

Where the South side proposes that the regulations be put into effect the day they are signed, the North side insists that they be put into effect simultaneously with the effectuation of the agreement on implementation.

Communications While the Committee Is in Recess (Paragraph 12)

Where the South side proposes that all manner of notification, bulletins, supplies of information, and exchange of information during the recession of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee be made through the South-North liaison office, the North side has no specific regulations on this.

Miscellaneous

The South side proposes that a supplementary agreement include the form of information exchange (supplementary 1) and the form for making the inspection schedule (supplementary 2), whereas the North proposes that the regulations of inspection be supplementary to the "proposal for an agreement on implementing the joint declaration on denuclearization."

Agriculture Minister Rejects Opening Rice Market

SK0604141792 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 1 Apr 92 p 6

[Interview with new Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kang Hyon-uk by unidentified reporters on 31 March; compiled by reporter Chae Su-in; place unknown]

[Text] [Introduction] "We will readjust the priorities for investment so that the restructuring of farming and fishing villages, in which we will invest 42 trillion won, will produce tangible results for the farmers and fishermen," said new Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kang Hyon-uk on 31 March when he met with reporters immediately after he assumed office. He said that since the measure for improving the structure of farming and fishing villages comprises all relevant projects, the government will closely study the priorities of various projects and push ahead with the measure as scheduled.

[Reporter] What is the direction of the agricultural policy?

[Kang Hyon-uk] The farmers and fishermen seem to have some complaint about the method by which the central government prepares all plans and presents them. Therefore, we will implement an agricultural policy incorporating the creative ideas of the farmers and fishermen of each particular region.

In implementing the agricultural policy, i will utilize my experience during my service as governor of North Cholla Province. During that time I raised a 3 billion won agriculture and fisheries fund and allocated it without interest to the cities and counties so that they could conduct various projects autonomously, which produced good results.

[Reporter] Do you have any specific plan to boost the income of the farming and fishing families?

[Kang] There are limitations to the improvement of the income of farming and fishing families because of the vulnerability of their productior structure. Therefore, we are planning to implement a policy aimed at boosting the income of the agricultural and fishing families from sources other than agriculture and fisheries from the current 40 percent to 60 percent.

For example, we will be able to induce the farmers and fishermen to participate in the processing industry and distribution of farming and fisheries produce.

[Reporter] What is your policy for improving the welfare of the farming and fishing villages?

[Kang] I will see to it that the difficulty young men in rural areas have in finding spouses is resolved as soon as possible by investing a large amount of money in improving the environment of rural areas: building sewers and improving toilet facilities of rural areas, for example.

[Reporter] Do you intend to open the rice market?

[Kang] I will certainly prevent the rice market from being opened by imposing a tariff.

[Reporter] When are you planning to submit the plan to implement the opening of markets to the Uruguay Round farm produce negotiations?

[Kang] We are planning to submit it about the end of next week, holding a meeting of the relevant organizations next week and finalizing the contents of the plan. We will work out the plan in such a way as to minimize the shock to our farmers and fishermen, and resolve the incomplete part through negotiations.

[Reporter] Are you going to designate the agricultural promotion area by the end of this year as scheduled as provided for by the law?

[Kang] This is now a political issue because of some farmers' objections, and it is becoming an issue of persuasion rather than of logic. We will intensively invest in the promotion area so that the area's income can increase. We will persuade the farmers to accept this logic in order to resolve the issue.

[Reporter] What are you planning to do to cope with the competition among the producers' organizations,

namely, the agricultural, fisheries, and livestock associations, and what will be the interrelations between your ministry and these organizations?

[Kang] Our ministry will actively intervene in excessive competition and will coordinate.

Tariffs Imposed on 20 Farm, Industrial Imports

SK0304233992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0741 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—The Finance Ministry drew up plans Friday to impose adjustment tariffs on 20 agricultural and industrial products that damage local industry and worsen the trade deficit, setting the maximum rate at 100 percent.

The tariffs will be applied to carrots, bracken, dried persimmons, acorns, wooden fans and the 15 other imports from mid-April, after they are discussed in meetings of economic ministers and the cabinet.

The tariffs will be provisional until the end of 1993 and the rate will range from a maximum of 100 percent on "unnecessary consumption goods" to 40 percent, according to the ministry.

Imports where it could cause trade friction are excluded from the tariffs.

Under the adjustment tariff system, a country can impose a maximum 100-percent tax in addition to the basic tariff to curb imports by correcting the unbalanced tariff application rate.

Last year, Korea imported 120 million U.S. dollars of the goods that will be slapped with the adjustment tariffs, a ministry official said.

They won't influence local prices much, he said.

Imports subject to the tariffs are mostly from China, followed by Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Costa Rica, the United States and Pakistan.

Six More Businesses To Open to Foreign Investors

SK0304234392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0819 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—Korea will open six additional lines of business to foreign investment this year, and remove all conditions for foreigners to obtain government permission to invest in this country next year.

Complete liberalization of the six businesses—electricity generating, operation of harbor facilities, wholesale of alcoholic beverages, briquet retailing, trade brokerage and leasing on airplane maintenance—brings to 953, or 83 percent of the total, the number open to foreign investment, the Finance Ministry said Friday.

These and other measures are contained in the ministry's plans for promoting foreign investment in Korea. The measures will be carried out in stages after the ministry obtains approval for them at an economic ministers meeting later this month.

To further encourage foreign investment, the ministry will simplify procedures and remove restrictions within this year on imports of parts for manufacturing companies where foreigners have invested, ministry officials said.

The ministry will also remove conditions for foreigners to obtain government permission to acquire more than a 50-percent interest in a company. Foreigners will only have to report to the government after their investment, it said.

Labor Shortage Grows at Small Companies

SK0404024692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Despite the government's strenuous efforts to alleviate manpower shortages in manufacturing, the labor shortfall in small- and medium-sized companies will deepen further, according to a poll released by the Korea Federation of Small Business yesterday. In connection with the latest work ethics shunning three-D jobs—dangerous, dirty and difficult, more workers were predicted to switch from production lines to the service industries.

The poll of 300 small- and medium-sized firms said 77.7 percent of the respondents feel the manpower shortfall will become worse and only 6.3 percent replied that the securing of workforces would become easier.

In mid-February, right after the lunar New Year holidays, the manpower shortage rate fell 2.1 percent from the end of last year. In mid-March during which the 14th National Assembly election campaign fever was gripping the nation, the manpower slumped 2.4 percent.

Nearly half of those polled attributed the exodus of their workers from work places to their pursuit of new jobs.

Other reasons for their quitting were bad working conditions (16.8 percent), low wages (14.9 percent), recruitment by larger companies (5.0 percent) and temporary quitting for election campaigns (4.3 percent).

The poll results show that most production workers are quitting workplaces in search of better working conditions and higher wages, officials at the KFSB said, adding that manpower shortages in production lines have become structural problems.

The poll also found that 52.0 percent were in favor of the present number of public holidays while 47.0 percent wanted the number to be curtailed. Only 1.0 percent hoped for an increase in public holidays.

As a way to ease labor shortages, 24.4 percent called for more production workers to benefit from military substitution programs; 23.8 percent hoped for expanded government subsidies for workers' welfare; 19.5 percent stressed the import of foreign labor.

Government Blamed for Illegal Worker Problem

SK0404021092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Apr 92 p 3

[By staff reporter No Chun-hun]

[Text] The rapid pace of economic progress here has given rise to an enormous influx of foreigners seeking illegal employment and the government is largely to blame for remaining ignorant to the problem until recently.

South Korea now has no-visa agreements with 47 countries, allowing their citizens to remain here without visas for up to 90 days and making it a cinch for those wanting jobs despite the existence of regulations prohibiting such activities.

Even in the absence of the agreements, most tourists, with the exception of those from Japan, were allowed to enter Korea and remain for 15 days without visas under a visa-waiver act of 1983 aimed at promoting the tourism industry.

With the problem becoming more and more serious, the government is now considering eradicating the no-visa accord with Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh but there is concern over the potential impact on diplomatic relations, justice officials said.

An agreement with the Philippines was abolished in January after a series of incidents in which groups of Filipino workers came to Korea to work illegally through employment brokers.

The government initially viewed the willingness of alien workers to engage in hard labor in construction sites or sewing factories as a positive development since the cost of domestic labor has caused inflation and hampered the export industry.

Owing to the ease with which the foreign workers can enter Korea and lax control over their activities, they face little problem in taking up illegal employment in small manufacturing firms.

They also have no obligation to report their whereabouts and the authorities are often at a loss when investigating criminal cases involving foreigners or checking into the expiration of the legal visiting period, the justice officials noted.

They said the trend has been taking a turn for the worse as the number of these aliens is increasing rapidly with some of them resorting to violent criminal activities.

Police investigators said visitors, mostly from South and Southeast Asia, are going to the extent of operating organized gangs and harassing and robbing fellow aliens.

In more violent cases, aliens have been killed in gang fights. Others have been involved in the smuggling of drugs and general merchandise as well as in "flesh" trade, they explained.

Earlier this week, two Pakistani nationals were arrested on charges of robbery and murder and more than a dozen others are undergoing investigations by police authorities.

Initial investigations showed that the two, both members of a Pakistani crime gang, killed two fellow countrymen in a bloody fight in Songnam, south of Seoul.

The two also faced charges of robbing two Pakistani nationals of 450 U.S. dollars and 330,000 won after beating the victim up in Itaewon March 5, they added.

Explaining the serious nature of the crime, officials of the National Police Administration [NPA] said the situation is worrisome because South Korea could quickly become the center of international crimes.

In connection with this trend, statistics at the NPA showed that foreigners were involved in 668 criminal cases last year, a whopping increase of 57.5 percent from the 424 instances in 1990.

The number of foreigners arrested for various illegal activities, including the violation of the Immigration Control Act, also rose from 9,200 in 1990 to 17,245 last year, up 87 percent.

The drastic increase is only natural since the number of visitors to Korea has jumped significantly in recent years with Korea emerging as a popular tourist destination, immigration officials said.

Official figures at the Justice Ministry put the number of foreigners residing in Korea at 176,000 and at least 60,000 of them overstaying the legal duration.

The 60,000 breaks down to 21,000 Filipinos, 4,800 Nepalease, 2,200 Bangladeshis, 600 Pakistanis, 400 Thais and 300 Sri Lankans, ministry officials elaborated.

The methods used by these aliens in obtaining illegal employment range from individual efforts to working through job brokers who provide them with tourists visas and local contacts.

Although the law enforcement authorities have been clamping down on these job-placement brokers in recent months but the a large number of others have been able to remain out of the reach of the law.

As for others, particularly Chinese of Korean descent, they have been resorting to contacting middlemen who provide them with false letters of invitations allowing them to come here.

A large number of them are believed to be working at restaurants and other entertainment establishments.

One justice officials said, "The trouble is that the authorities must, up to a certain extent, rely on citizens to report suspected illegal workers but they tend to sympathize with the aliens.

A an initial step, the ministry is planning to increase the number of officials assigned to tracking down and supervising suspicious foreigners from the current 125 to 300.

No Urges 'Stern Punishment' for Foreign Criminals

SK0304150992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 3 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u called Friday for stronger immigration controls and stern punishment of foreigners who are convicted of crimes.

Foreigners should be utilized in a limited way to ease the acute shortage of manpower in some sectors, and harsh penalties should be inflicted upon foreigners who break the law or engage in immoral behaviour, No said after a briefing on state affairs by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik.

The chief executive characterized crimes by foreigners as tending to be organized and violent, and he said that criminal syndicates in Japan and other countries were trying to form alliances with gangs in Korea or to set up operations here.

Illegal aliens and violent gangs should be stamped out through strong immigration control, and surveillance of foreigners should be beefed up in the places where they work and live, he said.

In other remarks, the president told the government to respond positively to the international movement to reduce chemicals that damage the environment.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Receives UN Special Envoy in Rangoon

BK0604144592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 April 92

[Text] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] received Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations under secretary general for humanitarian affairs, who is currently in Burma at the invitation of Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, at the defense ministry's Dagon House at 0900 this morning.

Present at the ceremony together with Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt were U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs, and U Kyaw Min, Myanmar's permanent representative to the UN.

Mr. Jan Eliasson was accompanied by Miss (Linda Hazul) political officer, UN Humanitarian Affairs Department, Mr. (Sumapla S. Wisaratne) special representative from the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], and Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of the UNDP [UN Development Program].

Bilateral Solution to Border Issue Promised

BK0604153492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 April 92

[Text] Mr. Jan Eliasson, United Nations under secretary general for humanitarian affairs, at the invitation of Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw, visited Burma from 2 to 6 April 1992.

During the stay, the UN under secretary general made a trip to the Burma-Bangladesh border to observe the situation there, and also visited various human development projects in Rangoon, including the new Dagon satellite town construction scheme.

In the discussions, priority was given to resolving bilaterally the immigration issue where absconders from the Burmese side have crossed the border into Bangladesh and where they are being sheltered in camps with international assistance. Burma informed the under secretary general that it has already decided to solve the current issues bilaterally.

On 6 April 1992 at 0900, Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], received Mr. Jan Eliasson at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House. After several discussions on the matters presented by Mr. Eliasson, he was informed that a delegation led by the Burmese foreign minister will be leaving for Bangladesh to meet with his counterpart at a mutually convenient date this month.

Mr. Jan Eliasson, UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs, accompanied by Miss (Linda Hazul) political officer, UN Humanitarian Affairs Department, and Mr. (Sumapla S. Wisaratne) special representative from the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], left Rangoon by air this evening.

Mr. Jan Eliasson was seen off at Rangoon airport by U Kyaw Min, Burma's permanent representative to the UN; U Ba Thwin, director general of the International Organizations and Economics Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; U Aye Lwin, director general of the Consular Affairs, International Agreements, and Research Department; U Aye, director general of the Political Affairs Department; and Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of the UNDP [UN Development Program] and assistant resident representative Miss (Sylvia Sanchez).

20,000 Muslims Gather on Thai Border

BK0704020792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] About 20,000 Burmese Muslims fleeing persecution by Burmese forces have massed on the Thai-Burmese border, apparently in a desperate bid to win outside help.

Col Tin Muang That, chairman of the All Burma Muslim Union, a rebel organisation under the Democratic Alliance of Burma, said yesterday the plight of Muslims in eastern Burma is as serious as that confronting the Rohingyas in Arakan State to the west.

Tens of thousands of Muslim Rohingyas have sought sanctuary in Bangladesh where their plight has gained worldwide attention.

The exodus to Bangladesh has also provoked expressions of concern in some ASEAN capitals.

Col Tin said the Burmese Muslims, assembled in separate groups in Karen-controlled areas on the Burma-Thai border, had been deprived of basic rights and their houses were raided and set ablaze by Burmese soldiers.

He said he was deeply disappointed with the poor response from Muslim countries, especially Saudi Arabia, towards the suffering of the Muslim refugees.

Cambodia

Sihanouk, SNC Delegation Leave for Beijing

BK0704052892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] At 1000 [0300 GMT] on 7 April, His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the nation, Cambodia's head of state, and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], and his royal consort, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, and SNC member, and his wife; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of

the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party, and SNC member, and his wife; H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and SNC member; and H.E. Khieu Samphan, representative of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea and SNC member; and many leading officials, left for a visit to the PRC and the DPRK.

Seeing the prince and his royal consort off at Pochentong Airport were H.E. Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of State; H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the front's National Council, and his wife; and their excellencies from the Standing Committee of the CPP Central Committee including Chea Soth, Sar Kheng, Say Chhum, Mat Ly, Nguon Nhel, Ney Pena, General Sin Song, Sim Ka, Pol Saroeun and General Ke Kimyan; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, vice chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers; members of the CPP Central Committee; ministers; deputy ministers; directors and deputy directers of various establishments in Phnom Penh; leading officials; and thousands of people.

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN Secretary General and chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia; their excellencies representing the five major powers in Cambodia; and their excellencies ambassadors and representatives of various diplomatic missions in Cambodia, also saw the prince and his royal consort off.

'Consensus' Seen Between Hardliners, Reformers

BK0604120892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1043 GMT 6 Apr 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, April 6 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh Government's National Assembly reshuffled its cabinet Monday and amended its constitution to give hardliner Chea Sim the powers of the presidency.

The minister of education and the minister for war veterans and social affairs were replaced. A new minister of propaganda and information was added.

While the reformist prime minister Hun Sen retained his position as head of the Council of Ministers and moved people loyal to him into ministerial posts, his former rival hardliner Chea Sim took over the powers of the presidency, formerly held by Heng Samrin, through a constitutional amendment.

"Between the hardliners and reformers there is a consensus," said a Cambodian source close to Hun Sen. "The hardliners have to go along, but for how long I don't know."

The former pro-Vietnamese head of state Heng Samrin was demoted to an honorary position in the party—which has controlled the government through its communist system for 13 years—just before the return from exile in November of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, considered the super-president of Cambodia's four factions.

The amendment makes Heng Samrin's loss of power official.

Despite the presence of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)—which supervises the Phnom Penh Government and can sack ministers—the day-to-day administration is the responsibility of Cambodians.

The reason for the reshuffle was not given, but government sources said the two ministerial dismissals were the result of imcompetence not corruption. [passage omitted]

The National Assembly also drew up detailed plans of its and the Council of Ministers' internal workings.

But diplomats pointed out that the documents will essentially be useless because a new Cambodian government structure will be created after the 1993 elections. [passage omitted]

Heng Samrin Resists National Assembly Decision

BK0704062892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0613 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 7 (AFP)—The president of the Phnom Penh regime, Heng Samrin, said Tuesday he would not resign despite being relieved of his duties by the National Assembly.

An amendment voted Monday by the National Assembly gave its chairman Chea Sim control of Heng Samrin's functions.

"I will keep my position as the president of the (Phnom Penh government)," he told reporters at Pochentong Airport during a farewell ceremony for Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Supreme National Council members who left for Beijing.

He acknowledged, however, that Chea Sim has the ultimate say in any decisions.

"Chea Sim is the head of the National Assembly and everything that the State Council does is decided by the National Assembly," he said.

Heng Samrin's title is president of the State Council, which makes the uncharismatic leader the president of the Phnom Penh regime.

The pro-Vietnamese head of state was demoted to an honorary position in the party—which has controlled the government through its communist system for 13 years—just before the return from exile in November of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The prince is considered the head of state of all Cambodian factions, making him the super-president of the Phnom Penh government.

The amendment to Article 61 of the Constitution makes Heng Samrin's loss of power official.

It reads: "The chairman of the National Assembly shall be in charge of the duties of the head of the State Council until a new head of State Council comes to power."

Thai Premier Choice 'Sure To Sour' Relations

BK0704094492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 7 Apr 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 7 (AFP)—Thailand's choice of General Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister is sure to sour Thai-Cambodian relations following a diplomatic fiasco that angered Prince Norodom Sihanouk and U.N. officials here.

One week ago, the United Nations flew the prince to northwest Cambodia for a ceremony welcoming the first Cambodian refugees to return from camps in Thailand.

U.N. officials had orchestrated a tight and complicated schedule—a farewell ceremony in Thailand, a two-hour cross-border bus trip, a welcoming ceremony in Cambodia, a press conference and the difficult task of getting all the diplomats, journalists and government officials back to Phnom Penh by sundown.

Planes cannot land at Pochentong Airport at night, and there was little time to spare.

However, Suchinda delayed the departure of the refugee buses from Thailand by more than an hour, and his troops pushed in front of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) military escorts in what some commentators said was a deliberate delay of the convoy.

The prince, who was waiting in the nearby town of Battambang for the convoy to arrive so he could make a grand entrance by helicopter, was more than an hour late.

To add insult to injury, Suchinda arrived at the speaker's podium first, and reached down to welcome Prince Sihanouk in his own country.

Diplomats and observers were shocked while a visibly angered prince insistently repeated that the delay was not his fault. He has had few kind words for Suchinda at at least two private dinners since then.

"General Suchinda should have had a little more finesse or been a little more delicate instead of barrelling in with his coterie of generals and stealing the show," said one diplomat who called the behaviour "typical Thai arrogance."

"It's not the right foot to get off on on Thai-Cambodian relations," he said.

The diplomats agreed that Prince Sihanouk is angry enough for the incident to affect Thai-Cambodian relations at least in the short-term.

However, Thailand's ambassador to Cambodia, Sunai Bunyasiriphan, said his country is being unfairly blamed for the fiasco.

"It's not our fault. It is a minor incident, and it will not affect our relations at all," he said, pointing to "coordination problems" in the day's events.

Still, diplomats and other observers here question the reasons for the slight, saying it is indicative of a larger problem.

Thailand has traditionally regarded northwest Cambodia as being within its sphere of influence, and historically as the Vietnamese withdrew from Cambodia, the Thais have invaded.

"It's all wrapped up in the Thai attitude towards Cambodia," one diplomat said. "If it weren't for the French, Thailand would have had half of Cambodia under its jurisdiction."

French colonialism, which ended in 1954, kept the Thai border with Cambodia essentially intact.

"There's a historical foundation and a cultural foundation for this," he said.

A Bangkok-based diplomat speculated that Suchinda was simply showing the Cambodians who is boss in the region, regardless of national borders.

"They (the Thais) feel they have the right to do anything they please after keeping those refugees for 12 years," he said.

Cambodian officials are also angry about an unannounced visit by Thai crown prince Maha Wachiralongkon to Phnom Penh and the central province of Siem Reap last week.

The Thai prince did not request to meet Prince Norodom Sihanouk, sources in the palace said, and visited Siem Reap without telling government officials.

"He had a royal procession as if he were the king himself," said a U.N. official who witnessed the visit to Siem Reap.

KR Soldier Claims Firing at UN Helicopter

BK0704045492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0421 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 7—The Khmer Rouge [KR] were responsible for the shooting of the United Nations plane which flew over areas controlled by them in Kompong Thom Province.

This was reported by a KR dissident Lim who came to the society in Kompong Thom Province on March 30.

Lim, soldier belongs [as received] to KR Division 616, told the provincial officials that he himself shot on the U.N. white-painted helicopter which injured Lieutenant Colonel Stuart of Australia.

The KR representatives to the Mixed Military Group (MMG) denied and blamed the accusation made by General Loridon on the KR's responsibility in shooting the U.N. aircraft in Kompong Thom [as received].

The denial came as a meeting of the MMG held in the KR controlled zone of Pailin on March 18.

Lim also reported that commander of the Khmer Rouge Division 616 ordered his group to fight so as to control portions of Road 6 and 12 and a number of areas in Kompong Thom Province before the arrival of the UNTAC there.

He said during fightings there he fired four shells of H. 107 on the provincial town.

The KR's fightings in Kompong Thom province later last month had reached the limits of the suburbs of the provincial town.

However, the situation in the areas calmed down as the KR faction agreed to withdraw its troops to the former positions and 200 Indonesian troops have been deployed to supervise the negotiated peace lines between the factions.

SNC-UNTAC Meeting Views Latest Developments

Khieu Samphan Gives Address

BK0704045192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] On the morning of 6 April 1992 at Khemarin Palace, there was a meeting between the Supreme National Council [SNC] and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman.

On the agenda of the meeting were:

1. Examination of the latest developments;
2. SNC Views on the draft election laws;
3. Discussion on regulations concerning civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights;
4. Other matters.

During the debate on the first item, after listening to the report by His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general to Cambodia, and the addresses by SNC members, H.E. Khieu Samphan, SNC member and chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], expressed satisfaction with the dispatch of another 4,000 UN peacekeeping troops to Cambodia and suggested the following:

I would like to ask for permission from the prince that three infantry battalions, to arrive in Cambodia in the future, be deployed urgently along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border while waiting for the successive arrivals of other UN peacekeeping troops. Here are the reasons for my proposal:

1. The deployment of UN peacekeeping troops along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border will prevent and ensure that foreign troops and weapons cannot be brought into Cambodia; this is in order to end the war in Cambodia.

2. Following this, if the war can be ended, UNTAC and SNC, with the prince head of state as chairman, can function and fully carry out activities in accordance with its mandate in a stable situation efficiently and as scheduled.

As for the manner of troop deployment along the eastern border, this will be discussed by the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] who will report to the Security Council for discussion and for followup.

H.E. Khieu Samphan also took part in the debate on the draft election laws, item two of the agenda, which H.E. Akashi submitted to the SNC for examination.

H.E. Khieu Samphan said: Here are my preliminary views:

1. In organizing elections, a universal principle should be respected: A country's destiny should be decided by that country's people in their names as the master of the country. There should be no foreign interference under whatever form. In particular, foreigners should not be voting in Cambodia.

2. It is necessary for the entire Cambodian people, including those compatriots living temporarily abroad, to enjoy full voting rights and take part in the coming elections, which are historic elections to decide the destiny of even the Cambodian race.

3. There should be concrete measures to prevent foreigners from voting by adhering to the spirit and essence of the Paris peace agreement stipulated in Chapters three and four, Annex three, of the Paris peace agreement.

H.E. Khieu Samphan further said: It is obvious that in order to have genuinely free, just, and fair elections it is necessary to first implement the key essence of the Paris agreement, namely:

1. All types of foreign armed forces should be withdrawn from Cambodia under UNTAC control and the SNC. The checkpoints along the land and maritime borders between Cambodia and Vietnam should be established carefully, properly, and efficiently in accordance with the spirit of the Paris agreement.

2. Troops of all four Cambodian parties should be put in cantonment and disarmed, 70 percent first and 100 percent in the end.

On these two key issues, the PDK has successively put forward proposals, in my letters to H.E. UN secretary

general and in the messages of H.E. Son Sen to H.E. Yasushi Akashi and H.E. General Sanderson, and also on other occasions.

I would like to specify again that other points of the agreement certainly are related to these above two key points. The implementation of the first point is a necessary condition for the good and effective implementation of the second. As long as the two key issues of the agreement have not yet been resolved, there can be no genuinely free elections; there can be no respect for the Cambodian people's rights to decide their destiny themselves. Therefore, there can be no peace and security in Cambodia and in Southeast Asia.

Before the meeting closed, H.E. Khieu Samphan proposed the agenda for the forthcoming and successive meetings. The agenda H.E. Khieu Samphan proposed is the following:

1. Control of the withdrawal of all types of foreign forces and their weapons from Cambodia and the guarantee that these forces do not return. The important measure on this is the deployment of UN peacekeeping troops and the four Cambodian parties along the eastern border.

2. Cantonment and disarming of the four Cambodian parties' armed forces.

3. Rights and power of the SNC as the sole legitimate source of power in Cambodia, and the relations between the SNC and UNTAC.

This agenda had already been proposed by the prince on 16 March 1992.

4. Elimination of a terrorist atmosphere and the establishment of security and a neutral atmosphere in Phnom Penh and in the provinces.

The meeting ended at 1230.

Akashi Briefs on UN Operations

BK0704051792 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0415 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 7—U.N. Peacekeeping Chief Yasushi Akashi briefed members of the Supreme National Council (SNC) on the status of U.N. operations in Cambodia on Monday at the last SNC meeting before the group flies to Beijing with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, AFP reports.

Prince Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the council, was scheduled to leave Tuesday, and offered to take the other SNC members, representing the various factions, with him to hold a meeting in Beijing.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong and Khmer Rouge leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen will be among those going, leaving the country rudderless until Prince Sihanouk returns April 17.

U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) Chief Yasushi Akashi gave the SNC members a summary of U.N. activity, but details of the rest of the closed door-session were not immediately known.

Speaking about the military situation in Kompong Thom, the scene of recent battles between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh Government forces, he said the situation had calmed considerably.

"Despite minor incidents here and there, the cease-fire is holding," Akashi said noting that 200 Indonesians had been deployed to supervise the negotiated peace lines between the factions.

A team would be sent to the province to assess the problem of thousands of people displaced by the fighting he said.

On the repatriation of refugees from the Thai-Cambodian border, Akashi said two groups totalling more than 1,600 people have returned to sites in western Cambodia under U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supervision.

The prince was orginally planning to spend more than two months out of the country, but he changed his plans after many Cambodians voiced concern about being without their head of state for so long, and diplomats asked him to shorten his trip.

He is due to move on to Pyongyang for the birthday of North Korean leader Kim Il-song on April 15.

The prince is to return for the visit of U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali on April 18.

He plans to go back to Beijing for a two-week medical checkup on April 20.

Khieu Samphan Asked To Open KR Areas

BK0604115892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1114 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 6 (AFP)—UN peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi told Khmer Rouge [KR] leader Khieu Samphan at a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting Monday to let his forces penetrate their closed fortress.

Akashi, UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief, told Khieu Samphan to open up his territory immediately, sources at the meeting said.

Khieu Samphan read a statement making the inspection of KR territory conditional on the deployment of UN troops to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the cantonment of all military forces, two events which are scheduled to begin in June.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk said these cannot be conditions.

"The two acts must be in parallel, not one after the other," the prince was quoted by the sources as saying.

Khieu Samphan did not respond, the sources said.

Akashi said the recent fighting between KR and Phnom Penh Government forces in Kompong Thom had calmed.

"Despite minor incidents here and there, the cease-fire is holding," Akashi said, noting that 200 Indonesians had been deployed to supervise the negotiated peace lines between the factions.

A team would be sent to the province to assess the problem of thousands of people displaced by the fighting, he said.

On the repatriation of refugees from the Thai-Cambodian border, Akashi said two groups totalling more than 1,600 people have returned to sites in western Cambodia under UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supervision.

The SNC meeting was the last before the group flies to Beijing with Prince Sihanouk on Tuesday.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong, and KR leaders Khieu Samphan and Son Sen will be among those accompanying him, leaving the country rudderless until Prince Sihanouk returns April 17.

He is due to move on to Pyongyang for the birthday of North Korean leader Kim Il-Song on April 15 and then be back for the visit of UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali on April 18.

He plans to go back to Beijing for a two-week medical checkup on April 20.

'Great Joy' Expressed Over Akashi Statement

BK0604012892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] On 1 April at the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phnom Penh, after listening to the addresses made by H.E. Son Sen, SNC member and commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea; and H.E. Son Sann, SNC member and chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, said that Vietnamese aggressor forces should be checked and ensured that they are withdrawn from Cambodia because this is the key issue in the implementation of the agreement.

People and the Cambodian national resistance forces, particularly those who are under attack by the Vietnamese aggressors, have expressed great joy at this statement by H.E. Yasushi Akashi because this is in line with the key issue in the implementation of the Paris agreement. The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces hope that this statement by Yasushi Akashi will materialze in its concrete implementation until the Paris agreement is fully implemented.

Foreign Minister on KR Stance on UN Troops

BK0704095892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 7 (AFP)—Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said Tuesday he was worried by the Khmer Rouge's [KR] refusal to let U.N. peacekeepers into the territory they control.

"We are very concerned about the KR behavior in the implementation of the peace accord," he told a press conference before leaving for Beijing with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and KR leader Khieu Samphan.

He suggested that the United Nations Security Council might have to take action to get the radical Marxist faction to open its fortress.

U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi told Khieu Samphan at a Supreme National Council (SNC) meeting Monday that he must allow peacekeepers into his area of control.

But Khieu Samphan read a statement making the inspection of KR territory conditional on the deployment of U.N. troops to verify the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops and the cantonment of all military forces.

Cantonment is scheduled to begin in June.

The KR have previously said they would open their territory after UNTAC arrived.

"By adopting this position, the KR have transformed UNTAC into a hostage," Hor Namhong said.

"Even if UNTAC responds to these conditions, will they (the KR) have other conditions after that?" he said. "I'm very concerned, very worried about the KR attitude."

Prince Sihanouk at the SNC meeting told Khieu Samphan that the conditions he imposed were not realistic.

"The two acts must be in parallel, not one after the other," sources who attended the meeting quoted the prince as saying.

Khieu Samphan did not respond, the sources said.

However, staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said they had begun controlled visits to areas chosen for resettlement by refugees living in camps on the border with Thailand.

The UNHCR has to carry out the inspections in order to guarantee the safety of returning refugees. The inspections began Monday and are to last until Wednesday.

At the SNC meeting, the four Cambodian factions also discussed the U.N.-proposed electoral law for the elections to be held in 1993.

Hor Namhong said the Phnom Penh government does not want non-ethnic Khmers to vote in the election, even if they were born in Cambodia.

Cambodia has hundreds of thousands of ethnic Vietnamese and ethnic Chinese people born in the county.

"Vietnamese and Chinese are foreign residents. They have no rights," Hor Namhong said.

UN Military Official Cited on Troop Deployment

BK0404064292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Apr Apr 92

[Text] The UN military commander in Cambodia said yesterday that the United Nations has deployed a company of peacekeeping troops in Kompong Thom to ensure stability in the area although fighting still continues.

General Sanderson said Indonesian troops will temporarily stay in Kompong Thom until next week when they will be deployed in villages where cease-fire lines have been agreed upon by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and the State of Cambodia [SOC]. Sanderson told reporters that he hoped that fighting in Kompong Thom is the last battlefield in Cambodia. He said all Cambodian parties are close to an agreement on stationing observers deep in rural areas and that the deployment of UN peacekeeping troops could take place next week in villages where an agreement has been reached on troop withdrawal by the PDK and the SOC.

General Sanderson, commander of the UN peacekeeping force, said 193 Indonesian soldiers left for Kompong Thom Province on Thursday in 17 trucks.

Radio Urges Solving 'War of Aggression'

Control of SRV Pullout Urged

BK0504021292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 4 Apr 92

["Clarification of the Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia radio: Those Who Do Not Want the Agreement Implemented Are The Ones Who Oppose the Control of the Withdrawal of All Types of Vietnamese Aggressor Forces From Cambodia"]

[Text] The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement clearly spells out measures to solve and end Vietnmam's war of aggression comprehensively, both the external and the internal aspects at the same time, including:

1. Control of the withdrawal from Cambodia of all types of foreign forces, namely Vietnamese aggressor forces, and measures to ensure that Vietnamese aggressor forces and all their weaponry do not return to Cambodia.

2. Measures to dissolve troops of all four Cambodian parties.

These two points are the key issue in the implementation of the entire agreement and in conformity with the real nature of Vietnam's war of aggression in Cambodia. Once these two points are resolved, other problems would be automatically solved.

It is on this point that the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces firmly stick to every clause of the agreement, particularly the above two key issues. There is a clear basis, legal and concrete, for the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces to struggle to get these points implemented.

1. This is a fact: The true nature of the war in Cambodia is that this was resulted from Vietnam's aggression against Cambodia at the end of 1978 and the Cambodian people's opposition for over 13 years. Therefore, it is an issue between Vietnam and Cambodia. This issue can be solved only when problems between Vietnam and Cambodia are resolved.

2. These two key issues are not conditions that the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces propose to discuss again. This is a matter all concerned have already signed and decided, in principle and on the procedure, in Articles 3 and 6, Annex 2, of the agreement.

The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces simply propose the implementation of the existing articles in the agreement. Therefore, those opposing the agreement and those delaying the implementation of the agreement are the ones who oppose these two articles, particularly those who oppose or avoid implementing Article 6 dealing with the control of the withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. Those who want to implement the agreement are the ones who demand the implementation of these two articles which call for:

1. The control to ensure that Vietnam withdraw all types of aggressor forces from Cambodia;

2. The dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' troops simultaneously with the control of Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia.

100 Percent Troop Dissolution Urged

BK0604015292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 5 Apr 92

["Violations of the Cease-Fire Agreement in Kompong Thom by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh Side Are Planned"]

[Text] Violations by Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side of the cease-fire agreement in Kompong Thom are planned violations. Only a few hours after the cease-fire was announced, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side immediately continue their planned and systematic activities violating and attacking the Cambodian national resistance forces.

1. On 2 April, Vietnamese troops and those of the Phnom Penh side from Division 179, Regiment E-89,

and the Prey Veng provincial forces, continued their offensive and controlled the liberated villages of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] of (Voa Yeay) and L'ak in Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province.

2. On 2 and 3 April, a Vietnamese aircraft took various types of artillery shells, mortar shells, and various types of mines to Vietnamese troops in Sala Visai and Route 12.

3. On 2 April, troops of the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh side at San Kor position pointed their guns at and prevented the control team of the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties from carrying out the inspection of activities violating the cease-fire in Kompong Thom.

We ask this question: Are these incidents accidental or systematically planned? It is obvious that the Vietnamese aggressors have systematicaliy planned this using a trick Vietnam used to play with the United States in 1973. What should be done to prevent Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side from playing this wily trick again?

1. The resistance forces and the Cambodian people should be on constant alert in order to defend themselves.

2. However, we need to implement the Paris agreement fully and quickly. Therefore, the best measures are the following:

1. Permanently deploy control forces at the base of the bridge in Kompong Thom town or at the Route 6-Route 12 road junction.

2. Deploy control forces of the United Nations and the four Cambodian parties in general, particularly at points along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border as proposed on 26 March by His Excellency Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council and vice chairman of the PDK.

3. Dissolve 100 percent of all Cambodian parties' Armed Forces.

Villages in Kompong Thom Shelled 4 Apr

BK0704034092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] On 4 April, the Vietnamese aggressors fired 130-mm artillery shells on villages at L'ak and (Voa Yeav) in Kompong Thom Province.

This is a violation of the cease-fire agreement and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement by the Vietnamese aggressors. People in Kompong Thom Province have noted that the Vietnamese aggressors previously opposed the agreement. They are also not implementing the agreement after it has been reached. The people demand that the Vietnamese aggressors implement correctly every clause the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, particularly the ones dealing with:

1. The control of the withdrawal of all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and Cambodia's Supreme National Council; and

2. The dissolution of all four Cambodian parties' armed forces, 70 percent first and 100 percent later.

Multiple Rockets Brought to Kompong Thom

BK0704030492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Kompong Thom say the Vietnamese aggressors in the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham have moved three truckloads of BM-21 multiple rockets to San Kor for assaults on the villages and to kill people in Kompong Svay District. The reports also say the rockets were brought along Route 7, then Route 21 at the Treng Road junction, and Route 6 in Kompong Thmar. They were taken to San Kor across Kompong Thom town and Kompong Thom bridge.

People in Kompong Svay and Stoung Districts say the Vietnamese aggressors can do whatever they like to conform with their Indochinese federation strategy because there is no one checking on them. People in Kompong Thom are demanding that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the four Cambodian parties immediatey deploy forces at the base of the Kompong Thom bridge to check the movements of troops, ammunition, and war materiel used for attacks against the resistance forces and to kill people, all in violation of the agreement.

The people in Kompong Thom say only when UNTAC and the four Cambodian parties start to check the base of the Kompong Thom bridge can fighting in Kompong Thom be ended and people in Kompong Thom live peacefully.

360 New Recruits Sent To Kompong Thom

BK0704033292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] On 3 April, the Vietnamese aggressors in the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham took 360 newly recruited soldiers from Kompong Cham to Kompong Thom to replenish Division 89—which has suffered losses and defection—to attack the resistance forces in Kompong Thom Province. The reports also say that on their way there, 70 of them jumped out of the trucks when the vehicles slowed down at Kompong Thmar bridge and Tang Krasang bridge.

On arriving on the battlefield, these troops revolted against the Vietnamese aggressors, and refused to fight the resistance forces and kill people. They know that if they do this, they would be killed like those before them, as the national resistance forces and the people will have to defend themselves and their liberated villages.

These Cambodian soldiers say that if all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are not withdrawn from Cambodia as stipulated in the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, the war in Cambodia cannot be ended. They are demanding that UN peacekeeping force and the four Cambodian parties be stationed at the base of Kompong Thom bridge to check the movements of troops, ammunition, and war meteriel, which is in violation of the 23 October 1991 agreement.

UN Official Cited on Cease-Fire in Kompong Thom

BK0404052892 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0419 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 4—The United Nations has deployed a company of peacekeeping troops in central Cambodia to hold what truce lines have been established in the area, despite ongoing skirmishes, AFP quoted the top U.N. military office in Cambodia as saying Friday.

The 193 Indonesian soldiers left for the central province of Kompong Thom on Thursday in a convoy of 17 trucks, said Lieutenant General John Sanderson, the head of the military contingent of U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The Indonesians will stay in barracks outside the villages where [as received] Kompong Thom city until next week, when they are to move into villages where truce lines—called a separation of forces—have been negotiated.

Only a few such lines have been drawn, however, and the Khmer Rouge are reporting small skirmishes that have not been verified by U.N. officers, Sanderson said.

"We're on the verge of having a sufficient level of agreement to start moving reconnaissance parties in greater depth into the countryside and also to start perhaps next week deploying troops into villages where they've agreed to a separation of forces", Sanderson said.

"The cease-fire is resolved and we're starting to get the routes opened, but there's still a way to go on that," the Australian general said. "We've got funny little niggling problems".

One problem involves the means of communication between faction generals attending negotiating sessions in the city of Kompong Thom and their troops in the field.

Sihanouk Greets Hun Sen's 40th Birthday

BK0704080092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Apr 92

["Message from His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, SNC, to His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers and member of Cambodia's SNC;" dated 3 April—read by announcer]

[Text] Beloved and most respected Excellency: On the auspicious occasion of your 40th birthday, I and my wife are happy and honored to wish you all the best. May you enjoy good health and longevity to outstandingly and successfully perform the great, noble, and historic mission as the most loved Cambodian statesman of the nation and the motherland.

I and my wife would like to again deeply and greatly thank you for your valuable and warmest sentiments and firm and unbiased support for me. This has enabled me to carry out the very heavy mission of serving the sacred and beloved motherland, children, and all our courageous Cambodian compatriots.

Please, Excellency and Madame, accept deepest and warmest love and consideration from me and my wife.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 3 April 1992

[Signed] Norodom Sihanouk

Hun Sen Responds

BK0704101492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 6 Apr 92

["Message of thanks from His Excellency Hun Sen to the revered prince head of state, father of the nation, and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, and the royal consort;" dated 4 April—read by announcer]

[Text] I and my wife are happy and would like to express thanks for the greeting message from the royal father and mother on my 40th birthday.

It is an honor and pride of my life that the royal father and mother have given justice to my mission to serve the nation. Half of my life has been sacrificed to the nation and motherland, starting from my loyalty to the august prince father after the country and nation encountered disaster following the illegal coup of 17 March 1970 when I was only 18 years old. At that time I decided to follow the prince father to liberate the nation from foreign occupation and have become handicapped.

I do not regret the misery, hardship, and handicap I have encountered in my life. On the contrary, I am proud because I am serving the nation and the royal father and mother who represent the Cambodian motherland.

I would like to take this fine occasion to assure the royal father of the nation and the royal consort that I will carry out activities in the name of the Cambodian People's Party, the State of Cambodia's Government, and in my own name to follow and unconditionally support the very difficult and heavy mission of the august prince toward peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia.

I and my wife would like to wish the royal father and mother good health and longevity, to be a shade for the

Cambodian motherland and your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Please, royal father and mother, accept respect and love, dear as life, from me and my wife.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 4 April 1992

[Signed] Hun Sen

Indonesia

Austria Denies Reports of Aid Suspension

BK0104081692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0659 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr. 1 (OANA-ANTARA)—Recent press reports quoting [Austrian] junior minister Peter Jankowitsch that Austria has suspended technical cooperation with Indonesia are grossly incorrect.

The Austrian Embassy here Wednesday announced in a statement that the Austrian Government has never contemplated such a move or discussed [it] with the Indonesian Government.

There is no change whatsoever in the policy of the Austrian Government clearly expressed during the official visit to Indonesia of Foreign Minister Alois Mock from February 11 to 12.

As of Monday, it said Mr. Jankowitsch is no longer a member of the Austrian Government.

He has been replaced by Mrs. Brigitte Ederer who will be sworn in as the new junior minister in charge of bilateral development cooperation, it said.

Alatas: Austria To Continue Aid

BK0104101692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0916 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 1 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas said that the Austrian Government never halted its policy on aid to Indonesia and it was only the press that said it had been stopped.

"After we checked the matter with the Indonesian Embassy in Vienna, the report on the statement by the former Austrian junior minister (for bilateral development cooperation) never came up at all in Austria," Alatas told newmen here on Wednesday.

Alatas asserted the press report carried by the French news agency AFP was based on a telephone interview with Peter Jankowitsch, in which the former junior minister said that Austria had called off its technical assistance to Indonesia.

In the interview, Alatas added, Jankowitsch was reported to have only said that all project assistances to Indonesia will always be studied carefully.

Austrian Foreign Affairs Ministry high-ranking officials, according to Alatas, have said that Jankowitsch's statement on the issue was by no means a policy of the Austrian Government.

"Therefore, I expect that the report be corrected, and the Indonesian Government will not unnecessarily and hastily give comments on it," Alatas pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Austrian Embassy in Jakarta in a press statement on Wednesday said that the report was "grossly incorrect."

There is no change whatsoever in the policy of the Austrian Government, as clearly expressed during the official visit to Indonesia of Foreign Minister Dr. Alois Mock last February, the statement said.

Since last Monday Jankowitsch is no longer a member of the Austrian Government; his post has been taken over by Mrs. Brigitte Ederer.

Austria's commitment in the Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) aid package for the 1991/92 fiscal year was 8.0 million U.S. dollars, or 0.2 percent of the total 4.755 billion U.S. dollars.

The Indonesian Government has requested the Netherlands not to convene meetings of the IGGI anymore, which automatically means the dissolution of the 24-year-old consortium.

The Netherlands was the chairman of the group.

Envoy Reaffirms Continuation of Aid

BK0304100492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0838 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Jakarta, Apr 3 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Austrian ambassador to Indonesia, Dr. Herbert Kroll, confirmed here Friday that Austria's aid activities in Indonesia are continuing normally, saying that he believed a unilateral aid suspension is not the right way.

Technical assistance or financial aid is based on bilateral agreements and, therefore, you have to discuss things first with the other side and one should not decide the suspension of a bilateral agreement without prior consultations with the other party, he told ANTARA. [passage omitted]

Dr. Kroll further said that during the official visit of the Austrian foreign minister to Indonesia, an IGGI soft loan agreement was signed between Bank Austria and the Indonesian Ministry of Finance in the amount of 40 million U.S. dollars for the supply, staff training, and installation of 16 regional stations of the RRI [Radio Republik Indonesia] national radio network.

This project is going on and I just came back from Irian Jaya where I have been visiting the radio stations in Biak and Serui which will be refurbished, he said.

That 58 Indonesian teachers will soon be leaving for Austria for a special 3 to 4 month training course also reflects the fact that there is no aid stoppage, he said.

Indonesia, however, has requested the Netherlands to stop convening meetings of the IGGI and demand dissolution of the 24- year-old aid consortium for reasons that the Netherlands has frequently used its aid as an instrument of political intimidation.

On other Austrian cooperation projects in Indonesia, Dr. Kroll said they included the setting up of a technical center at the Engineering Faculty at the Semarang-based Diponegoro University which will start operation in September, and similar ones in other universities and senior technical high schools.

Dr. Kroll also mentioned about a preparatory project for the protection of the tropical forest on Seram Island in cooperation with Ambon's Pattimura University.

I am now waiting for the greenlight of the Pattimura University to be able to send an Austrian forest expert to Ambon, he said.

Policemen Headed for Cambodia Get Sendoff

BK0104121492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0926 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 1 (OANA/ANTARA)—Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces (AF) Vice Admiral Sudibyo Rahardjo at AF headquarters at Cilangkap Tuesday bid farewell to the Indonesian police contingent which was assigned to serve in the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, a press release of the AF Information Center said here on Tuesday.

The chief of the AF General Staff in his farewell address said that the United Nations had requested Indonesia to dispatch 75 police officers to perform police duties in the framework of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia. This was not for the first time that a contingent of Indonesian police officers was dispatched for similar duties. In 1989 Indonesia was also entrusted by the UN to send 50 police officers to Namibia.

They performed their task satisfactorily and this year Indonesia was again entrusted to send a contingent of police officers to Cambodia, Vice Admiral Sudibyo Rahardjo said.

"This is a noble task, because Indonesia wants the civil war in Cambodia to come to an immediate end in order to stop the prolonged sufferings of the Cambodian people," he remarked.

He appealed to the members of the contingent to perform their tasks well and to uphold the Pancasila moral values and in so doing could become an example for all parties concerned.

Australian Tourist Deported From E. Timor

BK0104140292 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 25 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] Dili, East Timor (JP)—The local immigration office on Saturday [21 Mar] deported an Australian tourist suspected of spying.

Dennis Dewe who has come to Indonesia for several times with tourist visa, was caught red-handed taking photographs of military installations and sites of the November 12 incident in Dili, THE JAKARTA POST's correspondent, Yacob J. Herin, reported yesterday.

Dewe claimed he was a painter, but it was founded later an Australian journalist. [as published] He was in the scene of the November 12 incident along with a New Zealander student, Kamal Bamadaj who died later in the incident.

The Dili immigration office had also deported a Japanese national for the same reason in January.

Family Planning Programs To Continue

BK0204131092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1206 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, April 2 (OANA/ANTARA)—Vice President Sudharmono here Thursday asked the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN) to make a list of national family planning projects receiving Dutch aid so that they could be continued according to plans.

The vice president said the list should be made as carefully as possible as the government is very committed to its development programs, including those in the sector of family planning, BKKBN Chief Haryono Suyono told the press after paying a call on the vice president at the latter's office.

The government last week announced that it would refuse the Netherlands' development aid as it had been frequently used as an instrument to politically intimidate Indonesia.

When meeting Vice President Sudharmono, Haryono also reported the completion of the formulation of a bill on population growth, prosperous family norms, and family planning programs.

Haryono quoted the vice president as saying that the list of Dutch-funded projects was needed for further implementation of family planning program so that the government's rejection of Dutch aid would bring no significant effects on the implementation of family planning projects.

The Dutch-funded projects included the quality improvement of family planning officials in Aceh Province, the income enhancement of family planning participants in the areas of Jakarta, Bogor, Tangerang, and Bekasi popularly known with the Indonesian acronym Jabotabek, and the procurement of Dutch-made contraceptives.

Haryono further said the Dutch aid given to Indonesia in the framework of Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI) totalled 10 million US dollars.

The aid was given to Indonesia four years ago, he added.

To the vice president, Haryono also reported the planned visit of the Indonesian family planning official team to Vietnam.

He said the team would also present 5,760,000 condoms, 10,000 injection needles, 10,000 IUDs [intrauterine devices] and 10,000 pills.

All of the aid given to Vietnam were the sample of locally-made products, said Haryono, who will lead the team.

Such contraceptives, he added, could be bought by Vietnam from Indonesia in the years to come, either through direct trade or counterpurchase systems.

After visiting Vietnam, part of the team would continue their journey to Cairo to convey the invitation of Mme Tien Suharto to the Egyptian first lady to visit Indonesia.

House Speaker Criticizes Business Monopoly Rights

BK0204124592 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 21 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—Speaker of the House of Representatives (DPR) Kharis Suhud, in an unusual criticism of the administration, said yesterday many recent government regulations granting business monopoly rights were issued without prior study of their probable impact on the public.

Some of the presidential decrees on business had failed to help improve the people's welfare as originally intended. They had instead triggered controversies, Kharis said after breaking the fast with journalists last night.

He cited as examples the presidential decrees which granted monopoly rights to private companies to collect television fees and to control the supplies of cloves and citrus fruit.

"The decrees were made without prior feasibility studies and they turn out to have created new chains of complexities which are hurting the people's interests."

Any new regulation should be preceded by a proper feasibility study, he said.

He was commenting on a journalist's remark that almost all current controversies over business monopolies stemmed from such facilities granted under presidential decrees.

The government has defended its decisions to grant the various monopolies mainly to improve efficiency. In the cases of the clove and citrus sectors, the monopolies were originally aimeds at protecting smallholder farmers from exploitation by unscrupulous traders.

There has been a controversy in recent weeks about the government's decision last year to grant PT Mekatama Raya, a private firm, the right to collect television fees door to door.

The company failed to meet its collection target and the government last month hiked the fees by an average of 200 percent, prompting strong protests from the public, including calls to boycott paying the fees.

BPPC, the agency given the monopoly to buy cloves from farmers, has also faced criticism since its chairman Hutomo Mandala Putra last month suggested that farmers burn half of their crops to reduce the huge overhanging stock.

Kharis said the controversies could have been avoided if the companies had openly explained their managements as well as the reasons why they had failed to perform their tasks.

The House of Representatives (DPR) would raise the matter of the controversies with President Suharto "when the right time comes," he said.

He also announced that the legislative body planned to revise its internal regulations, which many have come to regard as too strict, in order to allow the DPR to function properly, especially when it comes to initiating legislation or amending government sponsored bills.

Military Chief Hopes for 'More Tranquil' Society

BK0604050392 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] General Try Sutrisno, commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], hopes that a new spirit inspired by the 'Id-al Fitr [end of the Muslim fasting month] will enable all ABRI personnel on duty in East Timor to enhance their struggle and dedication and listen to the pulse of the people's hearts. The armed forces commander urged the people to be hand in hand to march toward a more tranquil, peaceful, and prosperous society in East Timor.

During a get-together with ABRI personnel and their families in Dili yesterday, Gen. Try Sutrisno said that the ABRI, which was born of the people and is consistently united with the people, was required to understand the feelings and hopes of its own blood brothers and sisters. The Armed Forces commander also reminded the ABRI in the wake of the 'Id-al Fitr atmosphere to enhance their professionalism, uphold the values of their struggle, and correct their morality and deeds that were considered inappropriate in the past.

Philippines

Ramos Spells Out Foreign Policy Platform

HK0704031692 Quezon City MALAYA in English 7 Apr 92 p 9

[By Ellen Tordesillas]

[Text] Lakas-NUCD [Strength-Nationalist Union of Christian Democrats] presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos yesterday said he is against any initiative by Japan in the Asia-Pacific region that could lead to its re-emergence as a military power.

Enunciating his foreign policy at the Manila Overseas Press Club, Ramos said: "Any military initiative in this part of the world (Asia-Pacific) is going to be misconstrued since it was this part of the world that suffered from the expansionism of Japan in World War II under the umbrella of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere."

He reiterated his stand made before the foreign correspondents of Japan in Tokyo last year: "I rule out any military initiative on the part of Japan."

Ramos said Japan should instead expand its economic assistance, both official and private, to the countries in Asia-Pacific.

Ramos noted that one military initiative of Japan that has already taken place was its participation in the peacekeeping forces in the Middle East.

The plan of Japan to participate in the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Cambodia has been met with concern by countries in Asia and the Pacific.

On the issue of the Kalayaan islands in the Spratlys which are being claimed by five countries including the Philippines, Ramos said: "I have taken the position that we will not engage in any armed conflict to settle that claim."

"We will submit ourselves to a peaceful solution—one that will lead to a joint and multi-nation development of the area with the economic benefits to be shared by all the claimants," the former defense secretary said.

Ramos said the national focus of his administration will be broadening of relations with Pacific rim countries especially Japan and the economic "tigers" namely Taiwan, South Korea, and Singapore which have enormous surplus capital and advanced technologies but are deficient in natural resources and manpower which the Philippines has in abundance.

Ramos said for too long a time Philippine foreign policy has labored under the weight of its over pre-occupation with relations with the United States at the expense of relations with developed countries in the Asia Pacific.

Ramos said he will hasten the recasting of Philippine-U.S. relations from a predominantly security-oriented relations to one of partnership and friendship especially on the socio-economic plane.

Other foreign policy thrusts of a Ramos administration:

- —Effect changes in the foreign service and re-orient its mission so that overseas posts will serve as the country's commercial and trading posts.
- —Actively participate in the full realization of an Asean Free Trade Area and continue Philippine participation in the Asia Pacific Economic Community.
- —With the new linkages forged by the Lakas-NUCD with European governments led by Christian Democrats, pursue closer relations with the European Community, over and above the efforts of Asean.
- —Participate in international efforts to address issues attendant to underdevelopment such as international debt problem, environmental decay, over-population and the need for food security.

Ramos said since the foreign service corps will be deployed as frontliners in the economic offensive, its professionalization will be given top priority.

"Meritocracy and not palakasan [influence-peddling] will be restored in the foreign service," Ramos, whose father and sister were diplomats, said.

Aware of the demoralization among foreign service career officers caused by too many political appointees in ambassadorial posts, Ramos said: "The executive branch's constitutional prerogative to make political appointments in the service will be exercised judiciously."

Ramos also belied rumors that he has assured Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus of continued stay in the DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs] in exchange for the use of the National Union of Christian Democrats as his political party.

Communists Asked To Allow Free Campaigning

HK0704034692 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Commission on Elections (Comelec) commissioner Haydee B. Yorac disclosed the poll body has sent an appeal to the communist National Democratic Front [NDF] to allow all candidates to campaign freely in NPA[New People's Army]-infested locations.

Her disclosure comes in the wake of reports that the CPP[Communist Party of the Philippines]/NDF/NPA has been successfully issuing permits to campaign (PTC) on a selective basis in NPA-infested territories.

"We are still waiting for their reply," Ms. Yorac commented. Nevertheless, there are doubts as to whether the communist insurgents will accommodate the poll body's request, especially since rebel spokesmen have been reported to have denounced the upcoming elections as a fraud. More disquieting still are reports that the communist movement secretly favors candidates who are known to be sympathetic to the movement.

Although military reports of insurgent PTC taxation have so far been isolated to the Bicol region and Northern Mindanao, other rebel-infested areas, i.e.

Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Leyte, Samar and Cagayan Valley, remain unaccounted for to date.

For his part, Comelec chairman Christian S. Monsod cautioned against any undue alarmist sentiment on this issue. He emphasized the poll body's confidence in the ability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to contain the situation. "Evaluate the performance of our law enforcement agencies in context with what happened in the past," he stressed.

Commenting on some politicians' reported use of private armies as well, Mr. Monsod reiterated that the number of recently reported, election-related violence remains far below the number of reported similar incidents during the 1986, 1987, and 1988 elections.

He disclosed that 150 people died during the 1986 "snap" elections, 87 during the 1987 congressional elections and 149 during the 1988 local elections. He further expressed confidence that the deployment of additional PNP forces in rebel-infested areas would provide adequate "area security" to ensure that all candidates would be able to campaign freely.

Doubts remain regarding the effectivity of the recent deployments in achieving the intended results. Mr. Monsod himself admitted that there is a limit to the extent of deployment. "What's the use if these forces are too dissipated?" he asked.

Moreover, Ms. Yorac observed that while the additional security forces may be able to provide adequate area security, "there is no full proof assurance against ambushes." Significantly, the communist insurgents have constantly manifested a marked preference for the use of urban guerilla units in ambushing selected political personalities.

Evacuation of Workers in Libya Said Not Necessary

HK0704051192 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Apr 92 p 12

[By Arnold E. Belleza]

[Excerpt] The evacuation of some 20,000 Filipino overseas contract workers (OCWs) and their dependents in Libya is not necessary at the moment, Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor yesterday said.

Citing a report by labor attache to Libya Luis Flores, Sec. Confesor said the situation in Libya remains normal and "does not warrant the mass evacuation of our workers there."

A report from the Philippine Embassy in Libya, copy obtained by Business World, said there is "no imminent danger from external conflict or civil disturbances as of present."

She said the labor department is even considering the lifting of the ban on deployment of workers to Kuwait (ordered last month due to the Libyan situation) to allow OCWs currently vacationing in the Philippines to return to their families in Libya.

These workers have petitioned the labor department to allow their return, arguing they have families in Libya and that they would lose their long-held jobs and the gratuities they enjoy.

"Besides, the majority of the workers do not want to leave," she said, adding these workers are of the opinion that since they have survived similar sanctions and strikes against Libya, "they will also survive the UN-imposed sanctions."

The RP [Republic of the Philippines] Embassy report made the same recommendation "especially for those with expiring visas as their failure to return will mean losing jobs and gratuity for accumulated years of service."

However, she said contingency plans for these workers are already in place and that Government is monitoring developments and is prepared to "act immediately" should things take a turn for the worse.

Should hostilities erupt, these workers would be evacuated to "shelter areas," namely hospitals and border towns eastward to Egypt and westward to Tunisia, Sec. Confesor said.

Exit points to these countries have been identified as Jerba and Ghudarmis near Tripoli and several unspecified towns near Benghazi. Tripoli and Benghazi contain the greatest concentration of Filipino workers, she said. Of the 20,000 Filipinos in Libya, some 10,000 are contract workers. Some 75

are medical staff, 20

are oil workers, and the remaining five percent in the construction and services sectors. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Royal Command Appoints Suchinda Prime Minister

BK0704111692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1044 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Royal command on appointment of prime minister; read by General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, secretary general of the National Peace-Keeping Council—live]

[Text] Announcement on appointment of prime minister

His royal signature King Phumpiphon Adunyadet the Great

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has decreed that it be announced that whereas the election of the House of Representatives has been held in accordance with the Constitution, the cabinet which previously administered the country must end its term; and whereas the chairman of the National Peace-Keeping Council has informed him per Article 216 of the Constitution, with

the consent of political parties which constitute the majority in the House of Representatives, he deems that General Suchinda Khraprayun is the suitable person to be entrusted to hold the post of prime minister. Empowered by Article 191, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution, he appoints Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister to administer the country from this moment onward.

Announced on 7 April 1992, being the 47th year in the reign of the present king.

Countersigned by Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peace-Keeping Council.

Suchinda on Accepting Premiership

BK0704121992 Bangkok Thai Color TV Channel 9 in Thai 1112 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Speech by Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun thanking well-wishers, delivered at his residence in Bangkok—live]

[Text] Beloved acting Army commander [Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi] and blood brothers: As a matter of fact, I never thought of a lifestyle other than being a soldier. I was determined to resign in April and retain only the post of supreme commander.

Due to unfavorable circumstances, the deputy Army commander asked me to wait for a period of time. This is why I cannot fulfill my plan. I thought that I would remain in the supreme commander post for six months before resigning to live a private life because I have been serving the country for some time already. I never thought before that I would receive the royal trust to carry out the duty of the premiership. This is a great honor and a heavy job.

The reason I dare accept this post is that I am confident in my beloved friends. We have been united and are determined to help each other work for national stability. The next Army commander as well as all Army officers is capable of making our Army stable. I have always realized that the Army is important to national stability. It is the most important force for securing peace, stability, and prosperity in the country. The reason I dare resign from the post of Army commander to assume the new post is that I have confidence that all of us can keep the Army a pillar of the country.

As the acting Army commander said, since I have decided to accept the political post, or to meddle in politics, I must tolerate all kinds of criticism. I must be patient. From now on, please regard me as a civilian. My blood brothers in the Army, you should not be too deeply concerned about me, otherwise you will have to defend my reputation and dignity. From today I regard myself as a civilian, not as a military officer or a general, who volunteers to serve the country. Please treat me that way. I believe that I must be patient if I want to do this job. I must be patient through to the end.

I thank everyone. I believe that the Army under the leadership of the new Army commander will be a developed and stable Army that can serve the country better than when it was under my command.

Phalang Tham Leader Criticizes Military Coalition

BK0704134292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang yesterday lashed out at the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition for choosing a non-MP, Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, as prime minister.

"During the election campaign the five party leaders held hands on TV saying they were all ready to be premier," he said.

"Now they are giving it to an outsider. That's tantamount to lying, conning the people and looking down on them."

Maj-Gen Chamlong said the five parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—could have just said outright that they wanted an outsider as prime minister and cabinet ministers whose assets had been ordered seized by the Assets Examination Committee.

"When it's like this, why should we have an election? It's waste of time."

The Phalang Tham leader said the coalition parties were capable of "changing their colour" to get into government without thinking of the damage this action could cause for the country in the long run.

They only thought of their own benefit, he claimed.

Maj-Gen Chamlong asked why the coalition parties did not choose another party leader or MP as prime minister when Narong Wongwan withdrew his nomination.

Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong or New Aspiration leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut are just two with adequate qualifications for the post, he said.

"The fact they did not choose these people shows they were only doing it for their own benefit. They didn't bear in mind the effect on the national image."

He said those saying they wanted two doors in their house but chose to use the wrong door showed they thought only about getting into government and becoming a minister first and foremost.

He said the world community, particularly the free industrialised democracies, would not accept the government in their hearts even though diplomacy required that they not raise objections.

"They will see that it as a step towards dictatorship," he said.

Maj-Gen Chamlong said he would not criticise Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun outright even though he was reported to have accepted the nomination.

"We (Phalang Tham) do not object to the choice of person whether he is a soldier or a civilian. We oppose the matter in principle.

"Ten years ago an outsider as premier may have been acceptable. But politics have developed and the trend all over the world is towards democracy.

"Even Russia will not go back, so who are we to go back?"

Maj-Gen Chamlong said an outsider as prime minister would lead the government and country towards certain damage.

Even though there may be an initial honeymoon period for the new government, an outsider will meet with increasing public opposition and, finally, an uprising.

He said the election results in Bangkok, Nonthaburi and the South demonstrated the people's desire for democracy, while the residents of other provinces did not vote for any of the pro-democracy parties on bloc.

While campaigning for Bangkok governor on Sunday night, a man on a motorcycle rode up to him and said he wanted an elected prime minister.

An outsider will lead to instability because all the coalition MPs will demand benefits from him and he will have to play them off against one another to stay in power.

"To stay in power, the premier will have to feed and pay them. He may have to set up more ATM machines in Parliament to control the MPs and gain their support."

This situation will ensure that national problems are ignored and remain unresolved because the premier will have to hand out benefits to ensure the survival of his chair.

Phalang Tham adviser ACM Arun Promthep said Thai politics had returned to its vicious circle with Gen Suchinda taking on a very risky position if he accepts the premiership.

The mood in opposition to a "neutral person" as prime minister is now running very high.

ACM Arun said his party would not make any moves for the moment but it will later take some action using the legislature.

He said the coup plotters should be responsible for the damage to the country since it was they who controlled the interim government and the general election.

The plotters should plant democratic roots for the country, but what they have done is the exact opposite of what they professed.

ACM Arun said the five parties had declared all along that they would support a "neutral person".

He said the people could do nothing about former ministers declared "unusually rich" and now expected to win new cabinet seats, but there is sure to be some effect on those ministers in the next election.

Chawalit Reports on Meeting With Suchinda

BK0604141792 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] At 1350 today, General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, the New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader, had the first meeting with Supreme Commander and Army Commander Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun since the general election. Gen. Chawalit and Gen. Phat Akkhanibut, the NAP deputy leader, arrived in a private car at the Army Operations Center to meet with Gen. Suchinda. General Sunthon Khongsomphong arranged their meeting, which lasted over 30 minutes.

Speaking to reporters at a hotel after a meeting with the NAP executive committee, Gen. Chawalit said the meeting with Gen. Suchinda was one between brothers and noted that there was no discussion about the prime minister post or alliance among the five political parties.

[Begin Chawalit recording] The chairman of the National Peace-Keeping Council kindly felt that the Army commander and I have not gotten together for some time. Therefore, he arranged a meeting between us on several occasions, but a meeting never materialized because both of us were busy at one time or another. The chairman felt that because the election is over, it would be a good idea to have a meeting between brothers, so he kindly arranged the meeting for us.

Gen. Phat and I went together to see Gen. Suchinda, who was alone. The meeting largely concerned exchange of pleasantries because we have not seen each other for some time. We also exchanged views on the political situation. Gen. Suchinda kindly related his feelings. He said he felt uneasy and wanted the situation to go smoothly. He also expressed his feelings about having worked for a long time for the nation and not desiring power. He said he even wanted to give up the Army commander post to perform solely the duties of supreme commander. He said he perhaps would not stay in government service much longer to go into another field—business or whatever. It is the same thing which he confided in me when he took over the Army commander post; there was no change in his plans. That was basically what we talked about. [end recording]

Military To Retain Key Ministries

BK0704010792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 Apr 92 pp A1-A2

[Text] Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun is expected to be appointed prime minister by His Majesty the King who will grant an audience to National Peacekeeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong tomorrow.

Highly-placed sources said the five party coalition has already agreed to endorse Suchinda as the premier. The general and the coalition are believed to have worked out a deal on the new Cabinet, which Suchinda will form after his appointment is announced.

However, Suchinda's reported acceptance of the prime ministerial nomination was denied by New Aspiration Party leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut earlier in the day when he claimed the supreme commander told him he was only interested in his military position.

Details of the deal are not known, but sources close to Suchinda said the prime minister designate has made it clear that none of the politicians ruled "unusually rich" by the military-installed assets investigation committee will be appointed to his Cabinet.

"They (the politicians) can nominate people to Cabinet posts which they want, but they will not be in the government. However, the politicians can be given face-saving posts outside the Cabinet," one source said.

Deputy Air Force Commander in Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalint is tipped to be interior minister while Central Security Command Director and NPKC spokesman Gen Chamlaeng Uchukomon is expected to be defence minister.

For the Finance Ministry, the sources said, either outgoing minister Suthi Singsane or former auditor general Thawi Nunphadi will get the nod.

As different meetings on the formation of the new government were going on around the capital yesterday, Chawalit claimed Suchinda told him at the Army Operations Centre that he did not want any position other than supreme commander, and would even give up his post as army chief soon.

But Chawalit's claim was contradicted by sources who said Sunthon will tomorrow seek His Majesty the King's endorsement for the appointment of Suchinda as prime minister.

Sunthon acknowledged that he had received the names of the prime ministerial nominees proposed by "two major camps", and now only has to decide who he will pick. He would not say who the candidates are or give details of their supporters.

But the sources said the leaders of the five parties that have formed the government coalition have formally endorsed Suchinda as prime minister and submitted their letter of consent to Sunthon.

He said if royal endorsement is given, Suchinda will likely form the new government before Sunday and some parties other than the current five alliance partners may be persuaded to join the coalition.

Chawalit, whose party has the third largest number of seats in the House of Representatives, also said that since the leaders of Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai parties, the two largest parties, were reported to have opted out of the premiership race it should be his turn for nomination.

Chawalit's meeting with Suchinda sparked speculation that NAP would be persuaded to join the government coalition.

Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai and three other smaller parties—Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon—have formed a coalition with 195 seats and first nominated Narong Wongwan, the Samakkhi Tham leader, as prime minister. But his nomination was halted by strong protests from politicians and outsiders after reports that he had been denied a visa by the United States on suspicion of being linked to drug trafficking.

As political tension mounted and Narong backed down, Chat Thai leader ACM Somboon Rahong also refused to take the top post.

Chat Thai and SAP leaders said on Sunday that the five-member coalition then agreed to nominate Suchinda as the next prime minister. But this too has triggered overwhelming opposition from non-alliance political parties, academics and student activists.

Chawalit, when asked to confirm whether Suchinda had said outright he would not accept the post, said the supreme commander did not directly say "yes" or "no".

The NAP leader said it would be fair if he was given a chance to stand for the premiership, considering the ranking of his party after Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai.

"If they won't abide by democratic principles, they should know that I too can play the game without following the rules," he warned. "They should not think that I'm so submissive. In fact, I'm quite dangerous."

Sunthon, meanwhile, insisted yesterday that he did not want politicians whose assets were ordered seized by the NPKC-installed assets investigation committee in the Cabinet.

If the new prime minister picks these politicians in his Cabinet, he would have to be responsible for the consequences of his decision, said Sunthon.

"Certainly, problems will arise if those politicians join the government," he said.

Sunthon, who is empowered by the Constitution to select the prime minister, said he had never stated that he would name Suchinda as the next premier. He said he has not yet received official confirmation from the five-party coalition on support for Suchinda as prime minister.

Sunthon said it should be known before Friday who will be the prime minister.

In a related development yesterday, the four-party alliance in the opposite bloc to the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition said they will call a press conference at Parliament House today to declare their objection to the move

to nominate a non-elected person as prime minister. The four parties are the NAP, Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity.

—The Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee yesterday called on Suchinda not to accept the premier's post and keep the pledge he made publicly last year.

Committee member Dr Witit Muntraphon of Chulalongkon University told a press conference yesterday that any move to offer Suchinda the premiership would be against democratic principles and would give the NPKC a chance to assert its control over national politics.

Military, Party Leaders on Forming Government

BK0304011592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Apr 92 p 1, 3

[Text] His Majesty the King yesterday asked members of the new Houses of Parliament to bear in mind the importance and responsibility of their duties in protecting the country's security and people's welfare.

During a short ceremony held to open Parliament at the Ananta Samakom Throne Hall yesterday afternoon, His Majesty told members of both Houses that they would have to cooperate to ensure their work was carried out to the best of their ability.

Later Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said the problems surrounding the nomination of Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan as prime minister were something for the political parties to resolve.

Whoever the majority chose would become prime minister, he said.

He denied that the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] was playing a part in the nomination, and queried reports that there may be second thoughts about Mr Narong.

"There are procedures to follow with the nomination. Everything will have to work out," he said.

Gen Suchinda denied the military was demanding it be given the Defence and Interior Ministries in the new cabinet.

"Who told you this?" he asked reporters. "You better go and ask whoever told you about it."

He refused to say whether any military officers would be named to the Cabinet.

"We have to leave this to the political parties to decide."

He also said he did not know if any ministers in the caretaker government would be named to the new cabinet as this too was up to MPs to decide.

He denied that the military had thrown its support behind Mr Narong as its choice of premier, and refused to say whether his appointment would affect economic and diplomatic relations between Thailand and the United States.

Army Deputy Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi also refused to comment on the formation of the new government, saying it was the business of the political parties.

But he denied reports that the NPKC had called on Mr Narong to withdraw his nomination because of US suspicions that he was linked to the drugs trade.

Mr Narong said he had no plans to withdraw his nomination. Referring to the US attitude against him, he said: "I don't understand English, so why are you asking me about this. I deny everthing."

He also denied reports that there were moves for senior Samakkhi Tham MP Gen Athit Kamlang-ek to take his place.

Dr Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, who is tipped as the new Senate Speaker and Parliamentary President, said his appointment to the post would not have been the work of the NPKC but members of the Upper House who chose him.

He has been in the post before and was willing to serve again.

Dr Ukrit said he was not worried by potential problems and concerns about delays in forming the government as there were always problems and the country had always managed to solve them.

Dr Ukrit said the country could not do without a premier and, when the time comes, one would be found in accordance with democratic provisions.

If the majority of the House of Representatives vote for a person as prime minister, then he will have to take the post.

He disagreed though that the prime minister must come from the largest party in the House.

"Even the House Speaker has come from a party with only three MPs. It is the majority backing and the appropriateness of the person that is most important."

Air Force Deputy Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalinta, the current Deputy Interior Minister, said about reports that he may be named Interior Minister in the new Cabient that this was a matter for the political parties to decide.

ACM Anan, when asked about reports that Mr Narong had asked military officers to serve in his Cabinet, replied; "We don't even know who will be prime minister!"

He said the military would not be involved in politics and knew nothing about the current state of play.

"You have to ask the commander of the military, Gen Suchinda (who is also Supreme Commander), about this," he said.

Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on denied he had been lobbying on behalf of Mr Narong in the United States.

"Maybe reporters like to write novels. I know Mr Narong very little. I only know his brother," he said.

Mr Amaret refused to say if he thought Mr Narong was appropriate.

He then said he did not know whether he would be asked join the new Cabinet.

"I think it's time I stopped for a rest."

Solidarity deputy leader Uthai Pimchaichon said he had only read in the press that he was to be nominated by the opposition bloc of parties as House Speaker.

No one had contacted him, he said, and in any case he was unlikely to win.

He said it would be an honour if the majority of MPs voted for him, but this was most unlikely because the party system was very strong and the bloc led by Mr Narong would be able to control the votes.

Problems With Premier Selection Process Viewed

BK0504050392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Apr 92 p 4

["Weekend Analysis" by Banyat Thatsaniyawet]

[Text] The selection of the House speaker and his deputies went according to plan on Friday, but the military appears to have finally come to the conclusion that they cannot support Samakkhi Tham leader Narong Wongwan for prime minister.

After nearly two weeks of controversy over Mr Narong's nomination because of suspicions of ties to narcotics trafficking, and amid growing opposition to the selection, the military decided to drop Mr Narong on Friday night.

Reported moves to bring in Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister revived previous widespread suspicions that this was part of a broad plan all along.

After the February coup last year, the military laid the foundations for transferring power after elections by drafting new ground-rules giving considerably more power to the Senate.

Only after a rising chorus of opposition were they prepared to dilute the power of senators, which still retain the ability to topple the government in a no-confidence debate.

Soon after the coup, the military played a crucial role in forming the Samakkhi Tham party (STP), which made it clear that it backs Gen Suchinda as prime minister.

This triggered opposition from the press, politicians, students and the general public against the move to bring in an outsider as prime minister.

When the military felt that it could no longer counter public opinion, the military gave Mr Narong approval to vie for the prime ministership.

But moves to foster acceptance of Mr Narong, an elected MP and leader of the party with the largest number of MPs, ran into trouble when the United States in answer to a reporter's question let it be known he had been denied a US visa last year because of suspected links to narcotics trafficking.

The STP-led alliance tried to deflect critisism of their leader by painting the issues as American interference and drumming up nationalistic fervour about the independence of the country.

But they failed to convince the public there would be no economic repercussions or damage to Thailand's image if Mr Narong became prime minister.

Understandably, Mr Narong defended his honour, insisting the allegations were unfair, that he was innocent and challenging the US to prove its statement.

He was not prepared to sacrifice himself for the honour of the country.

On the day the House was to select a Speaker, informed sources said National Peace-Keeping Council chairman Gen Sunthon Kongsomphong visited privy councillor and former prime minister Gen Prem Tinsulanonda at his Sisao Thevas home.

He also met with other NPKC leaders to discuss the rising opposition to Mr Narong and the effects on the country if he became prime minister. They concluded they could no longer support him.

Political analysts agree that if Mr Narong steps aside, the coalition of the STP, Chat Thai, Social Action Prachakon Thai and Ratchsadon parties is unlikely to change.

Party leaders remain tight in their coalition agreement and have even reached broad agreement on Cabinet portfolios.

But a switch from Mr Narong to Gen Suchinda is easier said than done and cannot take place because of an agreement among key military officers.

In the first place, Gen Suchinda needs the support of a majority of MPs submitted to NPKC chief Sunthon through the House speaker.

Both Gen Sunthon and Dr Athit have to propose his name to His Majesty the King. This means that a resolution on the next prime minister will take some time to reach.

If Gen Suchinda does replace Mr Narong as the prime choice, it will revive suspicions that the military never intended to transfer power after the election.

There was some belief that the nomination of Mr Narong was only part of an overall strategy to allow an elected

MP to only hold the post temporarily before it is assumed by a military man.

If Gen Suchinda accepts the post, there will be speculation that the military knew all along that Mr Narong was under a cloud of suspicion and his nomination would spark a controversy that would give them an excuse to step in.

If Gen Suchinda accepts the post it would confirm widespread fears that he does not heed public opinion.

His rise to the top post would reinforce the belief that all of the military's actions following the February coup were aimed at retaining power after the elections.

Even if Gen Suchinda rises to the top, opposition to an outsider prime minister, and more important, Thailand's struggle for democracy, will continue.

Military Leaders Downplay Possible U.S. Aid Cut

BK0404013992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Top military leaders have expressed little concern over reports that the United States may cut its anti-narcotics aid to Thailand if Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan is made prime minister.

Asked to comment on the possible aid cut, Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun said:

"That may be good. In fact, the US has not helped Thailand. It gives us the assistance to help itself and not Thailand."

Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, asked the same question, said he did not think the cut would have any impact on Thailand.

Gen Itsaraphong said that it would be the duty of the next administration and political parties to solve problems resulting from a US decision to cut aid to Thailand.

The impact on the country internationally will also have to be overcome through diplomatic channels, Gen Itsaraphong said.

Trade Officials Dispute U.S. Trade Report

BK0304013792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 92 p B16

[Text] Thai trade officials have disputed the United States' finding that American service companies are not allowed 100-per-cent ownership in Thailand as recently published in its 1992 National Trade Estimate of the US Trade Representatives (USTR).

A senior trade official pointed out that under the Thai-US Treaty of Amity and Economic Cooperation, American businesses are guaranted national treatment, meaning that US companies can set up wholly-owned subsidiaries in Thailand in all services on par with the Thais, provided the sectors are not specially exempted.

Under the treaty, Thailand has exempted seven activities in which American businesses do not enjoy national treatment. They are communications, transport, judiciary functions, banking involving depository functions, land exploitation, or exploitation of natural resources, and domestic trade in indigenous agricultural products.

Therefore, it is inaccurate to suggest that American ownership in leasing companies or other service enterprises is restricted to 49 per cent as stated in the report, the officials said.

Another official said that in insurance and banking even Thai companies are not yet allowed to set up new ventures.

Also, American law companies are not prohibited from setting up offices here, he said.

But foreign individuals, including Americans, are not allowed to perform 39 protected professions promulgated in the Interior Ministry's 1978 Alien Occupation Act. If the Labour Department, which supervises the law, has lifted the announcement, American individuals will be eligible to seek work permits and perform their duties here.

Washington has listed several service barriers in Thailand, which officials have found to be inaccurate. The 1992 National Trade Estimate on foreign trade barriers forms a key source for the Bush Administration to list countries for negotiation or retaliatory action under the Section 301 of the 1988 Trade Act, the deadline for which is April 29.

More Services To Open to Foreign Operators

BK0604014492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Apr 92 p B1

[By Oranut Anusaksathian]

[Text] Thailand has substantially improved its offer in the multilateral trade talks by agreeing to open up 25 additional services to foreign operators if the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) could be concluded successfully this year.

The proposal was submitted by the Thai representative in Geneva last week to the group negotiating trade in services.

Suchai Chaowisittha, chief Thai negotiator on trade in services, said the enlargement of the package to liberalize the domestic service market should encourage other countries participating in the global trade negotiations to make greater efforts for the successful conclusion of the talks by April 19, the deadline set by Gatt director-general Arthur Dunkel.

In the new proposal, Thailand has offered to open up telecommunications services, broadcasting, non-life insurance, air and sea freight transport, catering services and hotel management.

The official said the offer was substantial given the sensitivity of those sectors and their importance to the Thai economy in the face of rapid industrialization and economic expansion.

The proposal was presented as an addition to the initial commitment Thailand made last October. It was submitted at the time of disagreements over services, ranging from banking to telecommunications. Sea transport emerged late last month as a new and crucial barrier to the long awaited world trade agreement.

The United States wanted to exclude sea transport, financial and air transport services and telecommunications from most-favoured nation (MFN) treatment.

The provision, a cardinal principle under the Gatt, ensures that special treatment a member grants to another will be given to all Gatt signatories on a non-discriminatory basis. Washington wanted to leave this to bilateral negotiations.

Under ten headings, 25 more services are to be liberalized if the Gatt talks could be concluded successfully. In communications and audio visual sectors, the following services will be opened: data base access services, provisions of telecommunications expert services, radio/television broadcasting, including cable TV, film/radio production.

In insurance services, direct marine, aviation and transit insurance, retrocession (referring to the reassigning of a reinsurer to another insurance company with all or part of the risks assumed), direct life insurance, insurance brokerage and agency, services associated with insurance such as actuarial, risk accessment services will be liberalized.

The recently-passed Life and Nonlife Insurance Acts empowers the Commerce Ministry to issue new insurance licenses and set the foreign shareholding at 25 percent. Foreign branches are not allowed to set up sub-branches anywhere in the country.

In banking, the government has offered to liberalize factoring, credit card and financial advisory services.

In tourism and travel-related business, hotel and catering services and hotel management will be open to foreign operators.

In recreation, cultural and sporting services, sporting and other recreational services (excluding audio-visual, gambling, betting and casino) will be allowed.

In international maritime transport services, the following sectors will be opened: transport of cargo and passengers and other auxiliary services including international towing, shore reception facilities, port captains' services and maritime surveys and classification societies for the purpose of providing accurate documentation and certification of vessels.

In air transport, only ground handling services for cargo and passengers by foreign operators will be permitted. Self-handling by foreign airlines will be allowed provided that the airlines are accepted by Thailand under bilateral air services agreement, and from countries whose regulations do not prevent the Thai air carrier from performing the same activity on their territory.

In rail transport, maintenance and repair of rail transport equipment, passenger and freight cars cleaning, rail freight warehousing, security services at railway station, international passenger transport on road, freight transportation and rental of non-commercial vehicles with/without driver.

The liberalization of these services are subject to the existing Thai laws which govern foreign ownership, professional employment and the scope of their operations.

Troops May Retaliate Against Burmese Intruders

BK2703153092 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] A monthly press briefing for newsmen was held by the Supreme Command Information Office today. Lieutenant General Wanlop Chittaroek, director of the Supreme Command Information Office, presided at the session also attended by representatives from the Armed Forces. Reviewing the border situation in the past month, the officer noted general calm at the border near Cambodia, with no violence reported. He reported considerable progress in the mine clearing and road construction mission by the Thai engineering corps working inside Cambodia. No injuries have been reported.

On the Burmese border, the officer said the supreme commander and Army chief emphasized that soldiers be utterly cautious in their mission to protect the Thai people and their property. According to him, Thai soldiers should retaliate immediately if intruders use heavy weapons. He stressed that Thailand has never meddled in the affairs of Burma nor supported the resistance against the Burmese Government.

Shells From Burma Hit Thai Village

BK2903072692 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Mae Sot, Tak—About 500 Thais fled when a number of Burmese artillery shells landed in their village yesterday morning.

Thai army sources said many people, including traders, merchants and entire families were evacuated to safe areas following the Burmese artillery barrage.

The army source said about 500 people from Rim Moei, Mae Tao, Ta Ad and Huay Maung villages came under artillery attack early yesterday morning.

Officials said the border market at Rim Moei was closed and all cross-border trading halted after the barrage.

Burmese forces in Myawaddy fired four mortar shells and a number of rifle rounds across the Moei River yesterday morning. The shells and bullets landed at Huay Maung and other villages.

Two houses were slightly damaged but no civilians were reported hurt.

Over 100 Thai soldiers, Border Patrol Policemen, and defence volunteers have been deployed along the border here.

The Burmese shelling followed two explosions in Myawaddy in which one Burmese woman was killed and two others injured on Friday night.

The Burmese suspected that Karen national Union rebels were responsible, and had used Thai territory as their springboard.

Government To Protest Burmese Border Incursion

BK0304010592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Apr 92 p A6

[Text] Thailand will soon lodge a protest against the Burmese encroachment of a Thai hill in southern Chumphon Province via the Burmese embassy here.

The protest follows unsuccessful attempts earlier to talk the Burmese into leaving Hill 491, which is in the vicnity of Baan Santi Nimit in Tha Sae district. Some 50 Burmese troops are occupying the hill.

The hill forms part of the Tenasserim Range which serves as the natural boundary between the two countries.

Informed military and government sources said the Burmese Army's 101th and 102th battalions had since January tried to capture Tham Din, an anti-Rangoon Karen base which is located opposite Baan Santi Nimit.

Unable to overrum the camp, the Burmese troops intruded into Thailand in an effort to launch a rear offensive against the ethnic forces, and on Feb 16 encroached on Hill 491, which is about 200 metres from the borderline, according to the sources.

The sources said the Karen guerrillas abandoned the base the same day the Burmese troops seized control of the hill.

The Burmese Army has since established its heavy artillery base up the knoll with the two battalions stationed nearby. It has refused to budge from there.

About 80 villagers were evacuated from Baan Santi Nimit, fearing an outbreak of violence, including those who grew coffee on the hill who are now unable to cultivate the crop, added the sources.

Thai officers have raised issue several times with their Burmese counterparts, but they refused to withdraw their troops, claiming that the hill belonged to Burma.

The latest talks by the Thai-Burmese border regional committee took place on Monday in Ranong but no settlement could be reached, said the sources.

No Thai casualty or damage were reported, but the encroachment of the Burmese troops have prevented the villagers from returning to their homes.

The Burmese Army has sporadically violated Thai territory in its operations against ethnic minorities waging an arms struggle for greater autonomy from the Rangoon regime.

Last month, the Thai Army forcibly expelled Burmese forces, who had intruded on Thai territory in Northern Mae Hong Son Province and killed one Thai trooper and injured a few others in the ensuing fight.

Rice Exporters Plan Shipments to Japan

BK0404013592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Apr 92 p B1

[Text] Thai rice exporters have been advised to advance their contacts with Japanese importers to pave the way for the exportation of rice to Japan once the import ban is lifted.

The Thai Commercial Counsellor's Office in Tokyo said in a report that the Japanese government has indicated that it might allow American exhibitors at the Great American Food Shows, which will be held on April 14-16, to import rice for display.

Granting permission might be seen as a softening of the Japanese government's stand on rice imports, the report stated. Moreover, the American Rice Association, which represents over 30,000 rice growers and 25 millers, has launched a promotional campaign to introduce American rice to Japanese consumers.

Under the campaign, "What is American rice?", the US rice association is disseminating leaflets that document in detail the features of American rice. The leaflets will be distributed to over 5,000 potential clients representing Japanese food importers, restaurant chain operators, food processors and business executives during the fair.

The leaflets contain information about the types and quality of American rice, ways to negotiate sales contacts with Americans and statistics about US rice production and exports.

The campaign, the Thai office reported, has been underway since 1989. The report also pointed out that the strategy would effectively familiarize Japanese consumers with American rice.

Once the Japanese government allows rice imports, the report stated that American grain will be in a better position to win a sizeable market share in Japan.

Thai authorities suggest that rice exporters here forge closer ties with Japanese importers and major users of the grain so that Thai rice caa gain a share of the Japanese market too.

Interior Minister Stresses National Sovereignty

BK2903054092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Interview with Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi with unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Interior Minister General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said the sovereignty of a country should only belong to that country and one country should not interfere in the sovereignty of another country.

[Begin recording] [Itsaraphong] I would like to say that each country must have its own solidarity and sovereignty. A country should not interfere in another country's sovereignty.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you think that there is something behind the United States allegation [against the prime minister designate Narong Wongwan]?

[Itsaraphong] I do not know.

[Reporter] Do you have concerns over the image of our country following such news reports?

[Itsaraphong] My concerns are about the same as yours. I want the controversy to end and a new government formed as soon as possible.

[Reporter] What is your view on the mixing up of an individual affair with an institution?

[Itsaraphong] What is it?

[Reporter] The case of Mr Narong.

[Itsaraphong] What institution?

[Reporter] It is an individual affair, but the Samakkhi Tham Party said that the people should share the responsibility for it.

[Itsaraphong] Before anything else, let us put it in this way. At this stage, it is an affair of various political parties. They are trying to find ways and means to reach a compromise with each other. His majesty the king's statement has been made very clear for all of us that love and unity among the people is very significant for the survival of the country. [end recording]

Vietnam

Paper: U.S. Told Hanoi To Abandon Socialism

BK0704082092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi, April 7 (AFP)—A Vietnamese newspaper said Tuesday that the United States had told Hanoi it should abandon communism and undertake political reforms if it wanted normal relations.

The QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, the armed forces daily, did not say in what circumstances the United States had made its wishes known.

But it said that Washington's pursuit of the issue of accounting for U.S. soldiers missing in action in the Vietnam war had the "ulterior motive" of forcing Hanoi to abandon socialism.

The United States says the problem of the missing servicemen, totalling some 1,650 in Vietnam, must be resolved before normal relations can be established.

The newspaper said the United States "made it known" to Vietnam that it wanted "Marxism-Leninism to be pushed aside" and "political reforms based on Western values" implemented.

"They want us to choose either capitalism or democratic socialism ... and put ourselves into their sphere of influence," the army newspaper said.

"We plan to cooperate with all countries (but) keeping a firm socialist stance," the QUAN DOI NHAN DAN said, adding that "all lasting relations must be based on confidence, respect and mutual interest."

Vietnam "wants to turn a new page in the history of relations between the two countries," the paper said.

The United States and Vietnam have had no formal ties since the 1975 communist victory of the North over the U.S. backed South.

Washington has imposed a strict economic embargo against Vietnam since then, a policy which has added to Vietnam's economic crisis.

"It would be sufficient if the U.S.A. became realistic, abandoned its hostile attitude and ended the embargo, then normal relations between the United States and Vietnam could be immediately established," the paper said.

Hanoi Reports USAID Delegation Visit

BK0404160992 Hanoi VNA in English 1443 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 4—A delegation of the aid for international development [as received] of the American Government (USAID) led by Mr. Peter Davis, director of the office for Asia, has recently paid a fortnight-long visit to Vietnam.

While in Hanoi, the delegation had working sessions with representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Public Health to inquire into the requirements of assistance to Vietnamese children and into other fields.

It called at various centres for orphans and disabled children in Hanoi and other localities.

It also made a fact-finding tour of Quang Ngai Province so as to render more emergency aid to victims of previous whirlwind.

The delegation pledged to make a concrete report to the U.S. Government so that it may give humanitarian aid to Vietnam, particularly to homeless and disabled children.

Chinese Party Delegation Visits

BK0604145992 Hanoi VNA in English 1344 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 6—A delegation of the Communist Party of China Central Committee [CPC CC] led by Xu Ruixin, deputy director of the Office of the CPC CC, paid a ten-day working visit to Vietnam ended today.

Le Duc Anh, Political Bureau member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee [CPV CC], received the delegation.

Phan Hien, head of the Office of the CPV CC, held talks with the delegation. The two sides exchanged experiences in their work and their ideas on economic reform and open-door policy in each country.

The delegation toured Hanoi, Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City, and the provinces of Quang Ninh and Tien Giang.

Chinese Aircraft Conduct Test Flights to Hanoi

BK0104050292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] A Chinese paper says trial flights have been successful on the air route between Hanoi, Nanning, and Beijing. Another paper, NANFANG, depicts the atmosphere of the common border market as peaceful and brisk since Sino-Vietnamese relations returned to normal.

The paper said since late February China has resumed the road portion between China's Pingxiang to Vietnam's Dong Dang, which was sealed off for 14 years. This is the basis for the reopening of the friendship border gate and the Sino-Vietnamese trans railway service.

Press, Publishing Delegation Visits China

BK0204062192 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 2—A Vietnamese press and publishing delegation led by Mr. Vu Khac Lien, vice-minister of culture, information and sports, has paid a two-week working visit to China.

The Vietnamese delegation met and had working sessions with a delegation of the General Department of Press and Publication under the Chinese State Council led by Deputy General Director Gui Xianfeng. The two sides exchanged views on the management of publication and distribution.

It visited a number of publishing houses, printing workshops, book distributors and printing equipment import-export establishments in Beijing, Guangdong, Guangxi, and Shenzhen.

Protocol With Czechoslovakia on Humanitarian Aid

BK0604130892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] According to a Prague-based VNA correspondent, on 3 April Nguyen Thi Hong and Tosecka—deputy minister of labor, war invalids, and social welfare of Vietnam and deputy minister of labor and social affairs of Czechoslovakia respectively—on behalf of the governments of the two countries, signed a protocol on the granting of one-time humanitarian aid to Vietnam by the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

Under the protocol, in 1992 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic will ensure the transfer of the sum of 400 milion korunas of humanitarian aid to Vietnam in U.S. dollars at the exchange rate fixed in the terms of payment between the two countries.

This aid sum will be divided into two parts. The Vietnamese side ensures that this sum of aid will be implemented in accordance with the prescribed purposes.

Participating in the signing ceremony were Le Tho, Vietnamese ambassador to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, and (Dausan), Czechoslovak deputy minister of labor and social affairs.

New Zealand Provides More Development Aid

BK0504082092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] New Zealand has recently decided to provide aid to Vietnam to carry out four more projects, thus bringing a total of six aid projects to the country under New Zealand aid program to Indochinese countries IDAF [expansion unknown]. The total IDAF aid to Vietnam has reached more than $304,000.

According to the New Zealand Minister for Trade and Foreign Relations, these four projects are worth more than $157,000.

Nguyen Manh Cam Interviewed on Ties With India

BK0204125492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Late last week Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam successfullly ended his visit to India. Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam also attended the sixth session of the Vietnam-India Joint Committee on Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation. In an interview with our radio correspondent, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and India has made important

developments. Two-way trade has increased from 10 million dollars in 1989 to 100 million dollars. Particularly, cooperation in personnel training has brought about practical results. However, these results have still fallen short of expectations. That is why at this session the two sides agreed to renew the cooperation mechanism in accordance with the renovation process in Vietnam and economic results in India. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said that at this session the two sides defined orientations for cooperation in the coming period. India will help Vietnam modernize its textile branch and railway and personnel training in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, and electronics. The two sides signed a program for cultural exchanges in 1992-1994 and an agreement on aviation and direct air links. The two sides were preparing for the conclusion of agreements on promotion and perfection of investment, avoidance of double taxation, and medication.

Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam added: The session ended with success, meeting the aspirations of both sides, strengthening the friendship, economic cooperation, and relations between the two countries. On the relations between Vietnam and India, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] In recent years, especially after the visits to India and Vietnam by leaders of the two countries, our traditional friendship and multi-faceted cooperation have developed and political relations have been consolidated. The two countries are unanimous in their opinions about the world and the regional situation and have been closely coordinating in many international forums. [Words indistinct] have greatly developed. [end recording]

The foreign minister ended by saying that the prospect for Indian-Vietnamese relations is bright in the context of a fast-changing world.

Do Muoi Addresses Foreign Relations Congress

BK0204095392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] On 20-21 March the party committee of the Bloc of Central Foreign Relations Organs held its third second-round party congress with the participation of 154 delegates representing four party committees of the bloc. Comrade Le Duc Anh, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Hong Ha, secretary of the party Central Committee and director of the party Foreign Relations Department; and many leading comrades of the bloc attended the congress. The congress was happy to receive Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi.

Comprehending and implementing the resolution of the Seventh National Party Congress to the content of the congress, the delegates focused their discussion on the implementation of political duties in advising, examining, and applying the party and state's foreign relations policy to contribute to the undertaking of renovation, socialist construction, and national protection. Confirming their efforts and achievements, the delegates unanimously agreed that it is necessary to thoroughly understand and strictly implement the Seventh National Party Congress resolution and its foreign relations policies, especially when the international situation is changing rapidly and complicatedly. They also stated that at the same time the foreign relations politics, economy, and other external activities in information, culture, science, and technology should be more closely combined.

The congress reviewed and outlined directions and measures to continue the renovation of the party building work in ideology, politics, and organization to build clean and strong party chapters, office party committees, and the bloc party committee. Regarding the political duties of the bloc party committee in foreign relations, the delegates also mentioned the importance of the cadre training and building work.

Speaking at the congress, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi highly evaluated the foreign relations work in the past. He commended party members, cadres, and staff of the bloc for their efforts and active contribution to the renovation and the undertaking of socialist fatherland construction and protection.

He urged the party committee to further develop strong points and achievements and overcome shortcomings and weak points in its work. He stressed that the duties of foreign relations organs are to take part in implementing the party's lines and the Strategy on Socioeconomic Stabilization and Development Until the Year 2000. Foreign relations organs should also improve their advisory work and implementation of Vietnam's foreign policy of independence, self-determination, openness, and diversification and multiplication of external relations to safeguard national peace, stability, and independence and make "people rich and the country strong" under the socialist direction.

That is correct. The foreign relations cadres must build a firm belief in the public and party. The external relations activities in all fields need to coordinate closely to create a combined force. The party committees of the Bloc of Foreign Relations Organs must be strong and clean and the work of political and ideological education must be given proper attention to enhance the revolutionary nature and fighting spirit of the party committee. The principle of democratic centralism must also be implemented and the training and strengthening of external relations cadres actively carried out.

The party congress of the Bloc of Foreign Relations Organs elected a new executive party committee with 17 members and satisfactorily concluded.

National Assembly Deputies Vote on Constitution

BK0704053892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Today, 7 April, is the 13th working day of the 11th Session of the Eighth National Assembly. The National Assembly held its plenary meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao.

The deputies continued their discussion and voted to pass Articles 37, 38, 40, 41, and 42 of Chapter 3 of the draft of the revised Constitution. However, the National Assembly could not vote on Article 39, due to different opinions expressed on it.

In Chapter 4 dealing with the protection of the Vietnamese socialist fatherland, the deputies voted for the title of the chapter. Because of different opinions on Article 43a, this article could not be voted on. Later, the delegates voted to pass Articles 43b, 44, 45, and 46.

This afternoon, the deputies will hold their meeting at the conference hall, and continue to vote on the subsequent chapters of the draft of the revised constitution.

Vo Van Kiet Chairs Hanoi City Plan Meeting

BK0304125792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] On the morning of 25 March, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet held a meeting with ministers and deputies ministers of interior; construction; and culture, information, and sports to listen to a report on the Hanoi City plan presented by the chairman of the Hanoi People's Committee. The report touched on issues such as shifting Hoa Lo Detention Center out of the city center, renovating the Lenin Square formerly known as Thong Nhat Square, and others.

After thoroughly discussing those projects, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said moving the Hoa Lo Detention Center is in line with the Hanoi development plan and the people's aspiration. However, the center has long been considered a historic site of our people's revolutionary struggle. Many comrades and patriots were jailed there by the French colonialists. Moving the center will not erase the revolutionary feelings from the people because its symbolism will still remain. The vacant land must be used for the city modernization plan to help build the economy such as constructing an international shopping center, a convention center or office buildings.

Under that direction, the chairman continued, the Hanoi People's Committee will need to consult the people, elderly revolutionary comrades, and the People's Council about the move. At the same time, the plan and construction of a new detention center must be prepared. This must satisfy the humanitarian purposes of the Vietnamese legislature while the living standards of the detainees must be improved. The Hanoi People's Committee will study and propose how the vacant land is to be used. The Ministry of Construction; Ministry of Interior; and Ministry of Culture, Information, and Sports will cooperate with the Hanoi People's Committee in planning and construction as well as the restoration of the historic site.

Bui Thien Ngo Attends Security Congress

BK0304124192 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The Logistics Department of the People's Security Force has just held its fourth second-round party congress with more than 200 delegates from 20 grassroots party chapters and committees participating. Attending were Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, member of the party Political Bureau, secretary of the Central Security Force Party Committee, and minister of interior; and Pham Tam Long, member of the party Central Committee and deputy minister of interior.

The congress reviewed the difficulties, advantages, and major tasks of logistics work in the past term. It affirmed that renovation in logistics work has contributed greatly to the development of the People's Security Force in the new situation.

At the congress, many delegates analyzed the current logistics work of the force and suggested improvement measures. The congress have also set up targets and goals for the party committee from now until 1995. First, the department party committees will be strengthened politically, ideologically, and organizationally; management capacity will be further improved; and youth and women organizations will be strengthened for the current situation.

Speaking at the congress, Comrade Bui Thien Ngo analyzed and evaluated the role and position of the logistics work in the People's Security Force in the renovation. He stressed that political and ideological education work for soldiers must be improved to enhance their morality and to counter negativism. He also urged party members to expand their roles in their work.

Nong Duc Manh Visits Lang Son Province

BK0304080092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] From 13 to 17 March, Comrade Nong Duc Manh, Political Bureau Member, vice chairman of the National Assembly Council of Nationalities and deputy of Lang Son Province, paid a working visit to Bac Son, Binh Gia, Tam Lang, Cao Loc and Huu Lung Districts and Lang Son City to get in touch with voters.

At the working sessions and democratic meetings with voters, Comrade Nong Duc Manh clearly pointed out the strengths of each district, especially the development of forest economy, raising livestock and poultry, the expansion of industrial crop area, and the production of exports. In each district he hinted at the creation of more budgetary revenue sources and requested districts with an average population of 100,000 people to try to contribute one billion dong for the budget to defray their own expenses and then on this basis to invest in socioeconomic development.

Comrade Nong Duc Manh accepted voters' petitions for reports to the forthcoming National Assembly session.

Australia

Iranian Embassy Attackers Fear Reprisals in Iran

BK0704070692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] The three people charged in relation to yesterday's attack on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra have unsuccessfully asked the court to suppress their identities, fearing reprisals against their families in Iran. The three, two men and a woman, have been charged with damaging protected property, causing actual bodily harm, and attacking internationally protected persons.

Defense lawyers told the court that all three were refugees from Iran. The two men have resided illegally in Australia for nine months. The court also refused their request for bail and all three will reappear again tomorrow when further charges are expected to be laid.

Meanwhile, the Australian prime minister, Paul Keating, has described as really disturbing the attack on the embassy. Mr. Keating has asked all Australia security organizations to report by Thursday into the circumstances leading up to the incident.

Iran is demanding the extradition of those responsible and compensation for the damage.

Officials Confirm Reopening of Aid To Vietnam

BK0604041492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0323 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] Sydney, March 6 (AFP)—Australia is to reopen direct aid to Vietnam, suspended in the wake of Hanoi's invasion of Cambodia in 1978, according to reports here Monday.

Aid officials confirmed the substance of reports in THE SUNDAY AGE and THE AUSTRALIAN, but declined to comment further, saying that Treasurer John Dawkins and Industry Minister John Button planned to make the announcement after arriving in Hanoi on April 11.

THE SUNDAY AGE reported Australia would give 75 million dollars (57 million U.S.) over four years, while THE AUSTRALIAN only put the figure at "more than" 20 million dollars (15 million U.S.).

However, a spokesman for Trade Negotiations Minister John Kerin said "both reports are wrong," declining to spell out how they were in error.

The reports said Canberra's decision to resume direct aid was designed to maximise Australia's political and economic influence in Indochina before the United States lifts its sanctions.

Prime Minister Paul Keating's cabinet approved the aid last week, in spite of continuing concerns about human rights in Vietnam, THE SUNDAY AGE reported.

It quoted officials as saying Australia was well placed to capitalise on opportunities in Vietnam, holding third place behind Taiwan and Hong Kong in terms of the number of investment licences issued.

Direct aid was suspended by the Fraser government in January 1979 after the invasion of Cambodia in late 1978.

THE AUSTRALIAN reported that the aid would focus on training programs, such as English language teaching and technical training courses to help Vietnam modernise its infrastructure.

There would be a bias towards industries in which Australia has a strong commercial advantage in Vietnam, such as telecommunications, it reported.

Restoration of aid to Vietnam would come on top of more than 12 million dollars (nine million U.S.) a year in aid to Cambodia announced last week.

Embassy Denies Banning Thai Minister-Designate

BK0304125892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Bangkok, April 3 (AFP)—Reports that Thai prime minister-designate Narong Wongwan, accused by the United States of having links with drug trafficking, is banned from Australia were denied by the Australian Embassy here on Friday.

The report, carried by an international news agency, said that if Narong were to apply for a visa the Australian Government has already decided to reject it.

"Decisions on visa applications are only made after individuals apply," an embassy spokesman said.

Diplomatic sources confirmed to AFP that it would be highly unlikely Narong would be banned from Australia if he were to apply.

The embassy also dismissed an Australian news report that Narong had been followed by drug squad detectives when visiting Australia in the 1980's.

"To the best of the embassy's knowledge Mr. Narong Wongwan has not visited Australia in the 1980's or subsequently," said a spokesman.

One of Narong's sons had visited Australia in the 1980's, and he may have been under surveillance, according to a source familiar with drug suppression efforts.

He added that the interest in Narong's son was sparked off after a political associate of his father, Arom Phumphiriyaphlung, was arrested in Australia where he has been jailed on drug charges since 1987.

Narong, who has made a multi-million dollar fortune out of his logging and tobacco interests, was refused a visa by the United States in July 1991 on the grounds of possible links to heroin trafficking.

Narong's business holdings and political base are in northern Thailand, which makes up part of the Golden Triangle, the source of most of the world's heroin.

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